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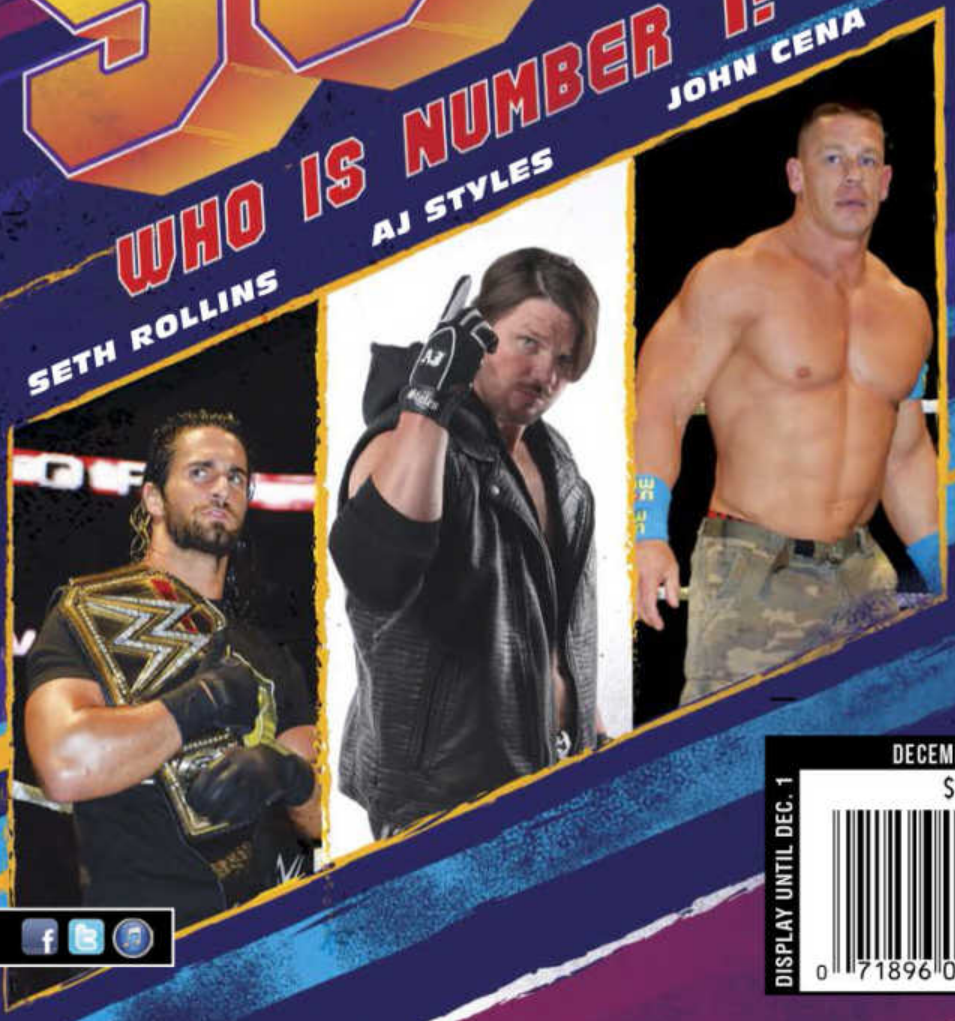

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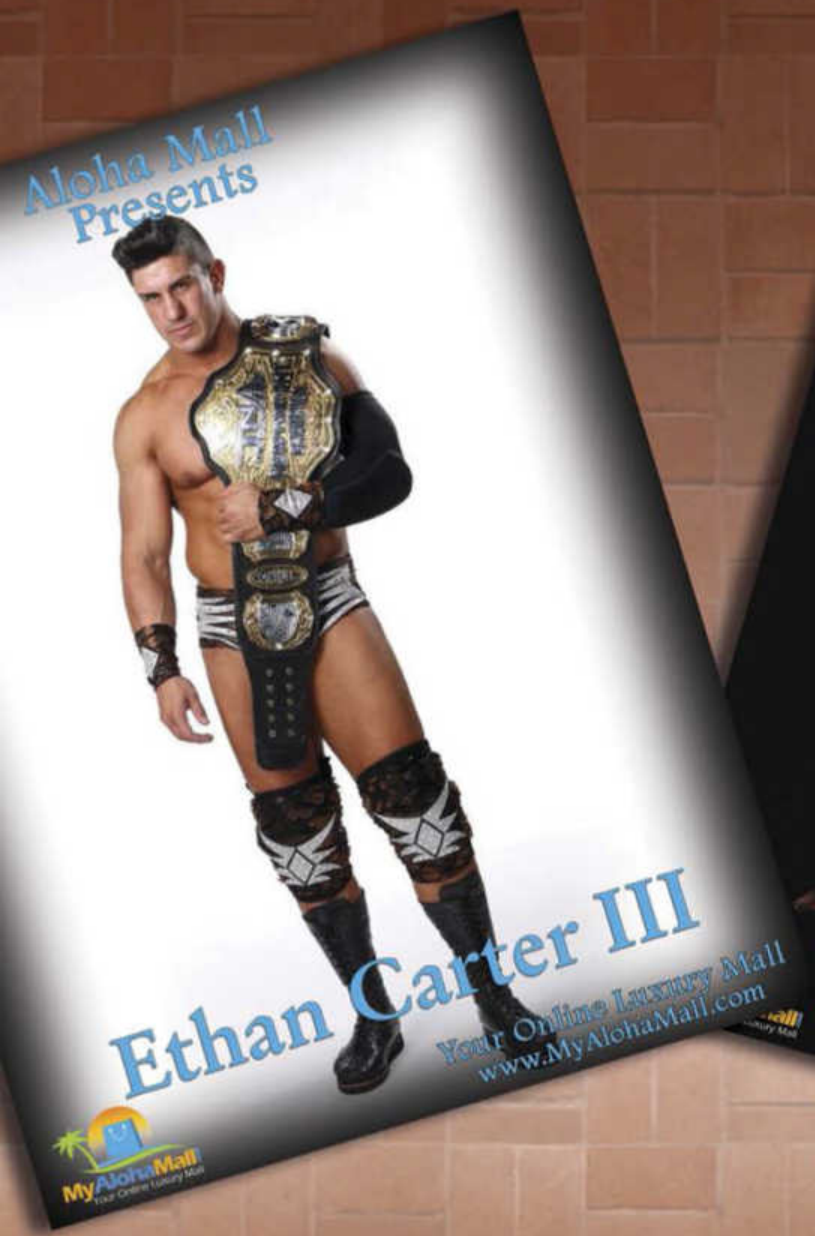

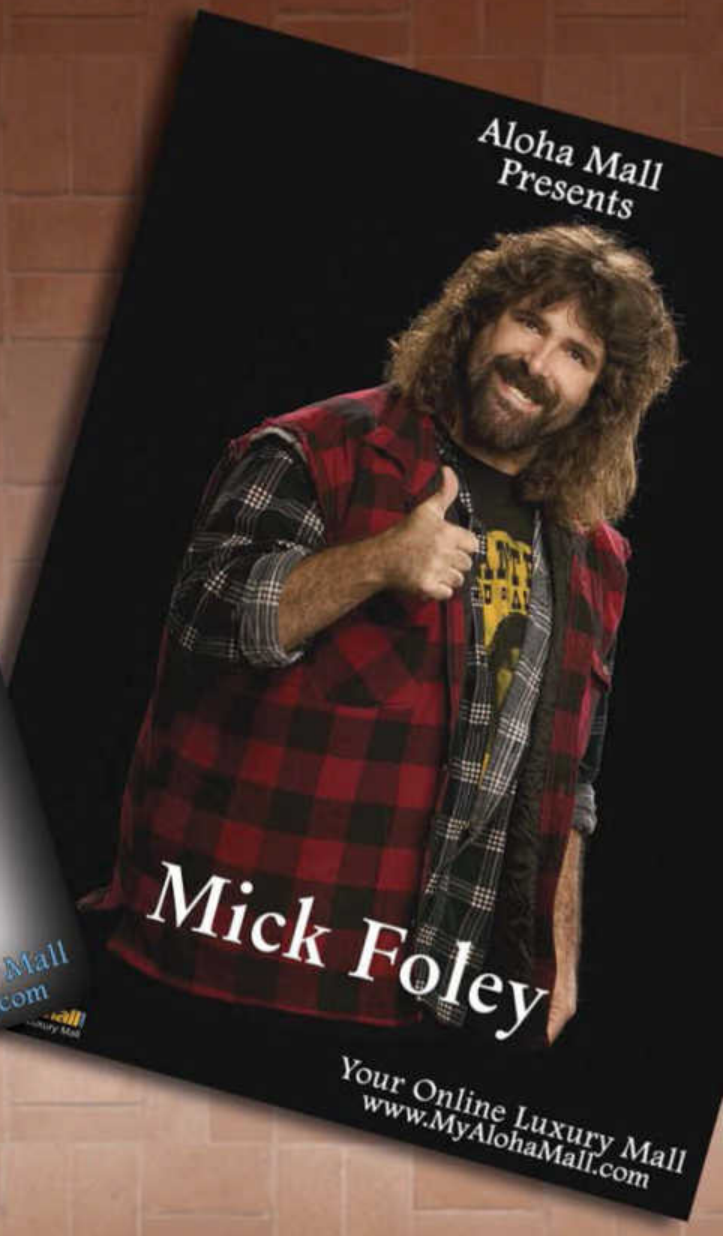

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FROM the DESK OF...

I WAS ACQUAINTED with Roddy Piper, but I was far more familiar with his work than with the man himself. In one hour on a Saturday afternoon seven years ago, I think I learned about as much about him as I needed to know.

On that early-fall day, Piper was one of the special attractions at the Signamania meet-and-greet in Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania. I was on hand to photograph the stars and arrange for future interviews, Piper in particular. As he signed for the long line of fans, I snapped a few photos. Piper recognized me and waved hello.

I told him I needed to speak to him, and he said he'd be happy to, as soon as he was through. I grew to admire the man as I sat and waited. For each fan that approached him, he pulled his wrestling-ravaged body out of his chair, extended his hand, and engaged the person in a brief conversation. He made sure he knew their names, so he could personalize his autograph, then wished them God's blessing as he said thank you for coming to see him.

Far from the TV cameras and storyline good guys and bad guys, Roddy Piper proved to be a mensch. It's a Yiddish word. Look it up.

I wish I could say the same about two of Piper's fellow WWE Hall of Famers, Jimmy Snuka and Hulk Hogan.

I'd like to give "Superfly" the benefit of the doubt. Times are tough for him right now. Carole Snuka recently announced that her 72-year-old husband has stomach cancer and had just undergone an operation to remove part of his stomach and his lymph nodes. At he continues to receive treatment, he also awaits word on whether or not a Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania, grand jury would hand down an indictment for his alleged role in the death of his girlfriend, Nancy Argentino, 32 years ago.

After a WWF event in Allentown in 1983, Snuka called 911 to report that Argentino, 23, had fallen and suffered a head injury. Argentino was transported to the hospital, where she died. Though the autopsy showed signs of domestic violence, no charges were filed at the time. The case was re-opened by Lehigh County District Attorney Jim Martin after *The Morning Call* newspaper published the autopsy report for the first time.

Two years after the incident, the Argentino family was awarded $500,000 in a wrongful death civil suit that the financially strapped former wrestler has reportedly not yet paid.

If Snuka is ever charged and tried, he might not want to call his old friend Hogan as a character witness. Hogan's character was called into serious question when an audiotape emerged of the all-time great repeatedly using the n-word in a tirade about his daughter's relationship with an African-American man.

My colleague Harry Burkett in his "Ringside" column *(page 6)* theorizes that Hogan may have used such deplorable language to prove his street cred. Sadly, the evidence is to the contrary. It's how people conduct themselves when they believe that they are acting in private that is the true measure of their moral fiber.

If Hogan is ever to work his way back to the mainstream, he's going to have to do a lot more than make a public apology, claiming that the audio clip does not represent who he is as a person. Jimmy Snuka, his health permitting, may have to defend himself in front of a jury of his peers. As for Roddy Piper, I think I learned all I need to know when his knees crackled for the hundredth time and he still managed a smile for his fans.

Stu Saks
Publisher

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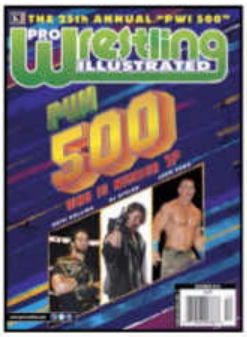

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Seth Rollins, John Cena by Stu Saks
AJ Styles by Lee South/ Ring of Honor

COVER DESIGN:
Julia Tran

PWI 500 COVER HISTORY

RINGSIDE

WITH HARRY BURKETT

TWO BOMBSHELLS seemed to mark the definitive end of the 1980s "Rock 'n' Wrestling" era. The first was the shocking death of **"Rowdy" Roddy Piper** on July 31 at his residence in Hollywood, California, apparently of cardiac arrest in his sleep. He was 61.

Long before **Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson**, Piper was the first pro wrestler to transcend the mat sport and make a run at a serious acting career, tackling action-adventure roles that were far removed from his wrestling persona. He earned worldwide acclaim as the star of **John Carpenter's** science-fiction classic *They Live* in 1988, and, in recent years, became a C-list celebrity of sorts, retaining instant mainstream recognition and appearing on programs ranging from *The Jimmy Kimmel Show* to cable fare such as *Celebrity House Hunters*, *The Haunting Of* …, and *Storage Wars.*

Piper was a key figure in the WWF's "Rock 'n' Wrestling" campaign, feuding with singer **Cyndi Lauper** and teaming with **Paul Orndorff** to battle **Hulk Hogan** and **Mr. T** in the first WrestleMania, and again fighting Mr. T in a boxing match at WrestleMania 2. He was even immortalized as the animated villain in *Hulk Hogan's Rock 'n' Wrestling* cartoon on CBS. His bashing of **Jimmy Snuka** with a coconut during his "Piper's Pit" interview segment is now an indelible image. Indeed, Piper—along with his trademark kilt and bagpipes—are iconic cultural symbols of the 1980s. He also enjoyed a lucrative run in WCW in the late-1990s. The day after his death, UFC fighter **Ronda Rousey**, who had already adopted his "Rowdy" nickname, dedicated a victory to him.

It was a remarkable rise for the man born **Roderick George Toombs** in relative poverty in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, who left home at an early age and was living in youth hostels at age 15. It was about that time he was introduced to pro wrestling, and lost his first match to **Larry "The Axe" Hennig** in 10 seconds in 1970. He plied his trade throughout the 1970s, almost always as a heel, in the AWA, the Canadian Maritimes, the Central States, and Texas. Piper got a firm hold on the villainous character for

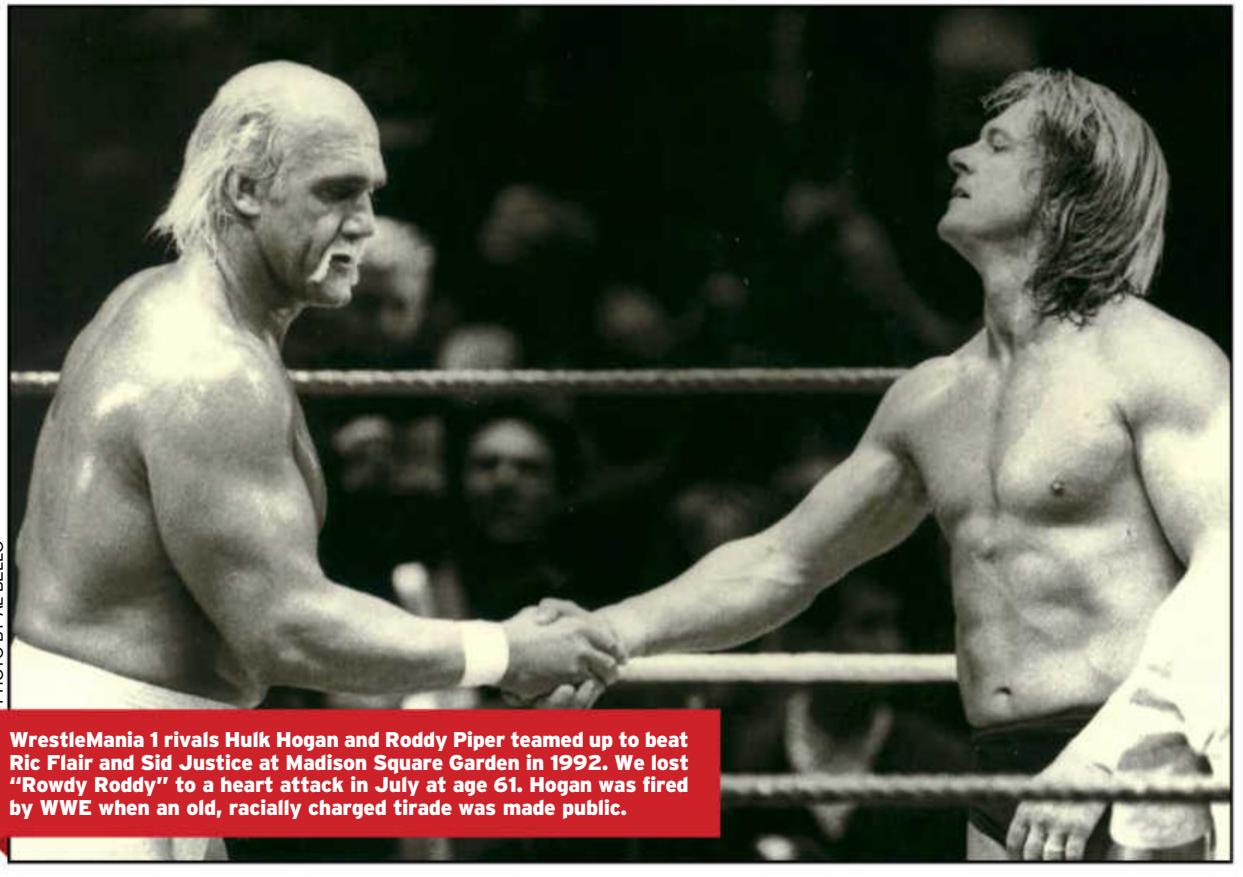


PHOTO BY AL BELLO

WrestleMania 1 rivals Hulk Hogan and Roddy Piper teamed up to beat Ric Flair and Sid Justice at Madison Square Garden in 1992. We lost "Rowdy Roddy" to a heart attack in July at age 61. Hogan was fired by WWE when an old, racially charged tirade was made public.

which he would become famous during his feud with **Chavo Guerrero Sr.** in Los Angeles.

A familiar pattern was developing by the early-1980s, however, as Piper would often enter a territory as a heel, gain incredible heat, and parlay that into celebrated runs as a fan favorite. This happened in NWA territories such as the Pacific Northwest, the Mid-Atlantic, and Georgia. His feud with **Greg Valentine**, in which he sustained legitimate hearing loss, climaxed in a steel-chain match at Starrcade '83, considered a forerunner to WrestleMania.

"Hot Rod" was a master at creating controversy to evoke emotions, and he did so until the very end, getting into an unauthorized Twitter battle with **Steve Austin** and consequently losing his legends contract with WWE only two weeks before his death. He also defended his friend, Hulk Hogan, who had been embroiled in his own troubles in recent weeks.

Piper leaves behind his wife of 36 years, **Kitty Toombs**, four children, and four grandchildren.

Of course, Piper's legacy is inextricably linked with that of former archrival Hogan. Fortunately, Hogan is alive and well, but his career has suffered a tremendous blow. Hogan had seemed to pull off an amazing feat, surviving the release of an unauthorized sex video, actually rallying public sympathy for the surreptitious taping, and going on the offense against former friend **Bubba the Love Sponge** and ex-wife **Heather Clem**, who allegedly conspired to make the tape, and Gawker for its release.

Public sympathy toward "The Hulkster" quickly soured when *The National Enquirer* and Radar Online revealed that Hogan had used racial slurs—including the n-word—and gay slurs when complaining about daughter **Brooke Hogan's** social life. Days later, Bay 9 News in Tampa released audio of his jailhouse conversations with son **Nick Hogan**, following Nick's incarceration, with Hogan's repeated use of the n-word again.

WWE, which had retained Hogan despite the sex video controversy, cut all ties with its former top star in July.

Plenty of young fans were disappointed when **John Cena** was unable to make a recent West Coast swing after WWE World champion **Seth Rollins** drove his knee into the U.S. champion's face during the July 20 edition of *Raw*, resulting in a broken nose. **Chris Jericho** replaced Cena at those live events. Cena also missed WWE's tour of Australia. With both Hogan and Cena off the tour, WWE enlisted the star-power of **Shawn Michaels** as guest general manager.

PHOTO BY GEORGE NAPOLITANO

Piper and his wife of 36 years, Kitty, attend the 2015 WWE Hall of Fame Red Carpet event. Roddy was inducted in the WWE's Hall of Fame in 2005 and the *Wrestling Observer* HOF in 1996.

New Japan's annual G1 Climax tournament was underway as of press time, with **Katsuyori Shibata** in the lead of the A-block standings with eight points and IWGP Intercontinental champion **Hirooki Goto** leading the B-block with six points. Goto achieved a stunning win over IWGP heavyweight champion **Kazuchika Okada**, and **Shinsuke Nakamura** continues to participate despite an arm injury. **AJ Styles** and the rest of **The Bullet Club** have maintained almost an omnipresence at the tourney.

Jay Lethal won the most important match of his career, defeating **Jay Briscoe** for the Ring of Honor heavyweight title at Best in the World 2015. Interestingly, Lethal refused to vacate his long-held TV title upon winning the heavyweight belt. He's taken on the very ambitious task of defending both championships on a regular basis. I'm surprised manager **Truth Martini** has allowed Lethal to plot this course. Lethal deserves kudos, heel or not.

Look for **Roderick Strong** to remain a persistent contender for both of Lethal's titles. "Mr. ROH" recently signed a new deal with the company, but the agreement does allow Strong to appear for other promotions without a significant iPPV presence. That means Strong will no longer be able to appear for WWNLive. Strong's deal is different from that of other headliners such as Lethal, **The Briscoe Brothers**, and **Adam Cole**, who are only allowed to appear for ROH.

James Storm has wrestled his final match with TNA for the foreseeable future, wrapping up his 13-year run with the company at a series of TV tapings in Orlando. He effectively disbanded his **Revolution** faction and appears to be WWE-bound. "Oh … I'm not done wrestling," tweeted Storm.

PHOTO BY GEORGE NAPOLITANO

Piper was beloved among his peers (including Jimmy Valiant) and was always gracious with his fans (including Kevin Castro). After being voted Most Hated by *PWI* readers in 1984 and 1985, he was chosen as Most Popular in 1986.

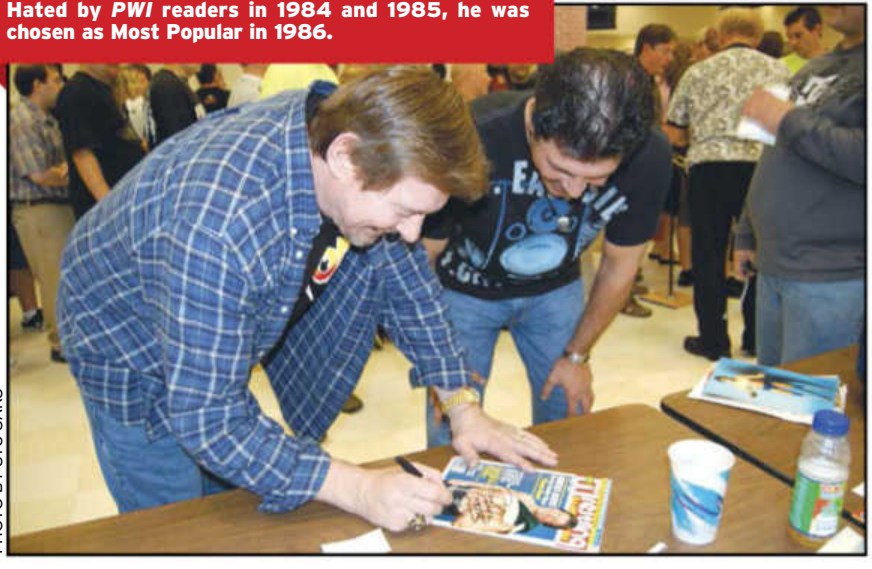


PHOTO BY STU SAKS

"Just working on a new saddle for a fresh horse."

More of a surprise was the departure of **MVP**, who is likely to return to the independent circuit or tour New Japan, where he made history as the first IWGP Intercontinental champ. MVP, in a very un-thug-like move, posted this humorous tweet: "Official statement: MVP and TNA have elected to go their separate ways. I wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors." Added MVP, "The year-and a-half I spent in TNA was fun. I'll miss 'the boys' (and 'girls'). Great locker room. Full of passion and talent. True pros!"

Speaking of those *Impact Wrestling* tapings, **Jeff** and **Karen Jarrett** were a major presence, leading a Global Force Wrestling contingent against TNA wrestlers. Is this a step forward or a step backward? We shall see.

In other news tidbits, 38-year-old **Layla-El**, WWE's longest-serving Diva, has announced her retirement from wrestling, citing her nine years of grueling travel … **Daniel Bryan**, on the other hand, is anxious to return to WWE, but faces the daunting task of convincing medical personnel that his history of concussions and neurological conditions won't put him in harm's way. **Bret Hart** recently compared Bryan to **The Dynamite Kid** in the latter stages of his career. *Yikes!* … **Billy Jack Haynes'** concussion lawsuit against WWE has been moved from Oregon to Connecticut … WWE Brand Officer **Stephanie McMahon** has been named to the Hospital of Pittsburgh Board of Children's Trustees, largely due to WWE's recent Connor's Cure fundraiser … **Kevin Owens** continues to be NXT's top heel despite his callup to WWE, recently attacking GM **William Regal** during a contract signing with **Finn Balor** … We send our good wishes to **"Diamond" Dallas Page**, who married longtime girlfriend **Brenda Nair** on July 25. Former WCW rival **Marc Mero** attended the wedding.

Our congratulations also go to the Lou Thesz-George Tragos Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame Class of 2015. Inductees include **Jim Londos** and **Greg Wojciechowski**, and other honorees were **Beth Phoenix**, who won the Frank Gotch Award, **Brian Blair**, who received the Lou Thesz Award, and amateur great **Matt Lindland**, who earned the George Tragos Award. **Wade Keller** was the deserving recipient of the George Melby Award, given each year to someone who has excelled in wrestling journalism or helped maintain the sport's history through the written word.

Jimmy Snuka, 72, recently underwent surgery after being diagnosed with stomach cancer, wife **Carole Snuka** told 1wrestling.com's **Bill Apter** in a July inter-

PHOTO BY STU SAKS

Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka is recovering from surgery after being diagnosed with stomach cancer.

view. "The doctors said he did very well. They're very happy with the outcome," Carole said. "He still has a long road ahead of him, and the doctor says he's an amazingly strong man. We all know how strong Jimmy is, and Jimmy can take a beating … He also wants to let his fans know that he's not done yet."

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of **Buddy Landell**, who died on June 22 following a car accident in Virginia. He was 53. After a journeyman existence in Tennessee and throughout the South, Landell hit his zenith after adopting the "Nature Boy" nickname and competing in Jim Crockett Promotions, where he feuded with headliners Ric Flair and Dusty Rhodes, and enjoyed a reign as NWA National heavyweight champion. He also had a brief final run in the WWF in the mid-1990s.

We also bid farewell to **Cora Combs**, the last surviving member of **Billy Wolfe's** famed women's troupe of the 1950s. A talented country music singer, Combs wrestled throughout the South and later trained daughter **Debbie Combs** for a mat career. She was 92 years old.

That's all for now. Save a ringside seat for me.

NEWS ANALYSIS

ONE OF A KIND

While trying to land a "Legends Q&A" with my childhood hero, Roddy Piper, a few years ago, "Hot Rod" asked me if he could make the cover of the magazine. I responded that retired wrestlers didn't usually make the cover, although we did make an exception for Trish Stratus—and that was because she was willing to wear a skimpy outfit. Retorted Piper, "I'll wear my Fruit of the Looms!"

HOGAN IN DISGRACE

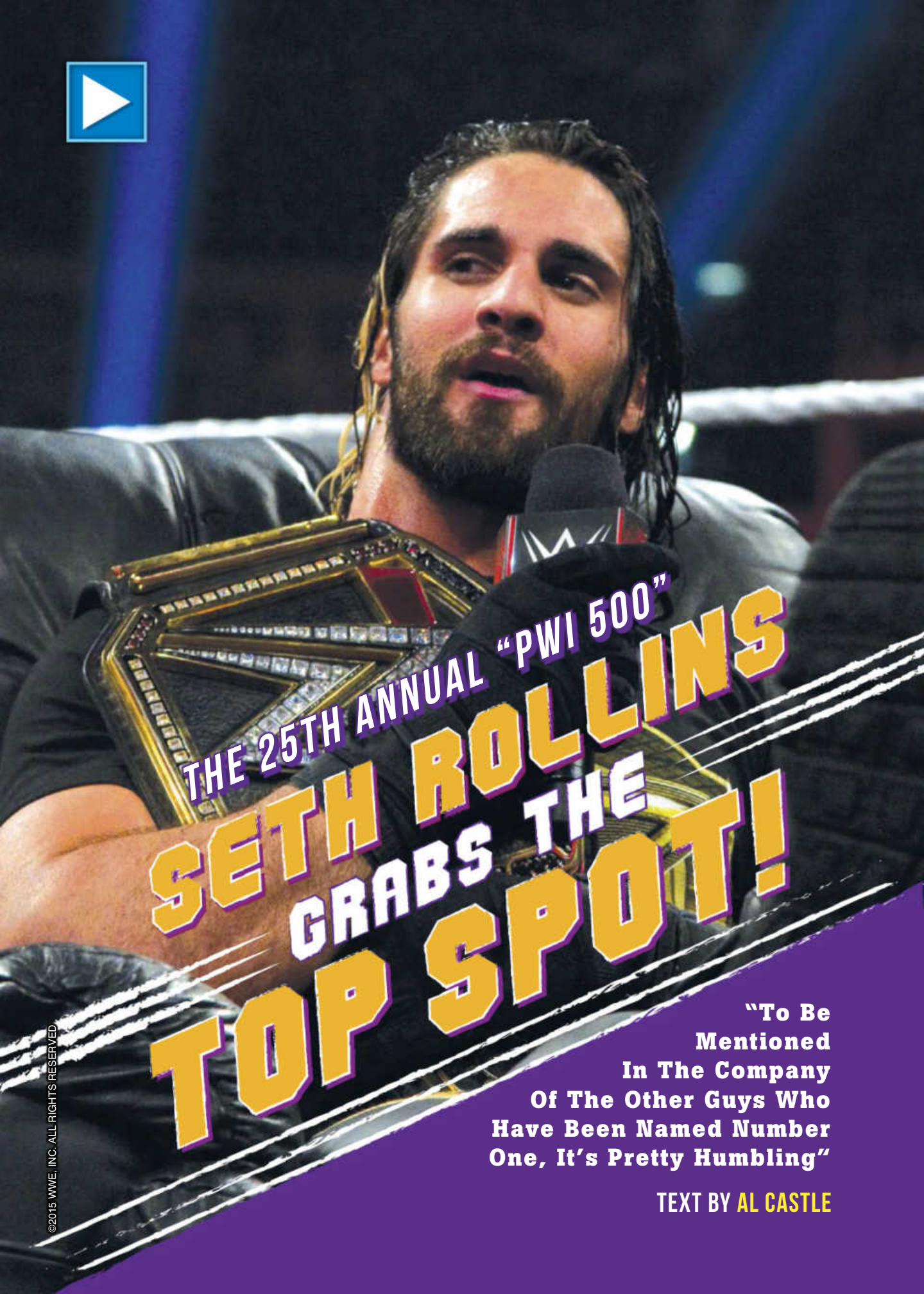
I don't think Hogan is a racist. But I think "The Hulkster" has had a bad habit of trying to prove his street cred by trash-talking and using these racial slurs, especially behind the scenes, somehow trying to seem hip to the younger generation. This seems especially true in his jailhouse conversations with son, Nick. In his desperate attempt to seem in sync with the times, he now appears woefully out of step.

THE FOUNDER RETURNS

Tears welled up in my eyes during Jeff Jarrett's induction into the TNA Hall of Fame. I wasn't the only one. Tears were rolling down Jarrett's cheeks, and those of Dixie Carter and Karen Jarrett. His love for this business is in his heart and soul. He also cares for the people in it. It's a shame that Jarrett and TNA had their falling-out.

THE OTHER "NATURE BOY"

I enjoyed Buddy Landell, especially when he mocked Ric Flair for being "10 years older" and "10 years past his prime." It was reminiscent of Flair's feud with the original "Nature Boy," Buddy Rogers, several years earlier. But Landell didn't go on to Flair's greatness, and allowed drugs and irresponsibility to derail his career.



THE 25TH ANNUAL "PWI 500"

SETH ROLLINS GRABS THE TOP SPOT!

"To Be Mentioned In The Company Of The Other Guys Who Have Been Named Number One, It's Pretty Humbling"

TEXT BY AL CASTLE

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AS "WRESTLEMANIA Moments" go, they don't get much more memorable than that which Seth Rollins experienced at this year's main event. With WWE champion Brock Lesnar and number-one contender Roman Reigns both lying supine on the mat, feeling the effects of a hard-fought World title match, Rollins scurried to the ring, cashed in his Money in the Bank contract, and quickly stole a pinfall victory over Reigns to capture the most cherished prize in the sport on its biggest stage.

"It almost went by too fast. I tried desperately, as the fireworks were going off behind me, and the crowd was losing their minds, to soak it all in. But it was so much," Rollins recalled. "It's really hard to feel like you're in that moment: That Shawn Michaels moment. That Hulk Hogan moment. That Steve Austin or Rock moment. It's hard to put yourself in that place, with those type of people."

And now, Rollins gets to share another prestigious distinction with those legendary names: achieving the number-one ranking in the *"PWI* 500."

Bolstered by his shocking WrestleMania title win, and several key main-event victories against the likes of Dean Ambrose, Randy Orton, and Reigns, Rollins beat out 499 competitors on this list, and thousands more from around the world, to be considered the best wrestler in the world by the *PWI* staff. The achievement was enough to have the typically braggadocious World champion sounding downright modest.

"That's crazy to think about," he told *PWI.* "I'm just sitting in my house in Davenport, Iowa, right now, just thinking about how weird that is, to be honest with you. To be mentioned in the company of the other guys who have been named number one, it's pretty humbling, to say the very least."

Rollins' 12-year journey to the top ranking began in the Midwest independent scene, where he wrestled as Gixx. But it was in 2007 that fans from around the world took notice of Rollins, when he debuted as Tyler Black in Ring of Honor.

In February 2010, Rollins achieved a career high point when he defeated Austin Aries for the ROH title. As a cocky heavyweight champion who wasn't above taking shortcuts to keep his title, the then-24-year-old gave ROH fans a glimpse of what would become Seth Rollins. But Rollins insists the similarities are limited.

"I feel like I'm two different performers. It's night and day compared to my time in Ring of Honor six years ago. But maybe there's a little bit there, for sure," said Rollins, who does believe his ROH title run gave him some valuable experience that he still relies on today. "I think any experience you have being the top guy in a promotion, carrying a company, will help you moving forward."

In the middle of his seven-month reign as ROH champ, Rollins achieved an impressive number 20 ranking in the 2010 "*PWI* 500." But before the magazine could reach newsstands, Rollins would make one of the biggest decisions of his career—giving up his position as the biggest fish in ROH's modest-sized pond for a developmental contract with WWE.

"WWE is where I wanted to be," he said, "no doubt about it. And I knew when I had the opportunity, I was going to give it a shot. I had to. And there was no better time than parlaying my Ring of Honor championship into that opportunity. So, for me, there was no hesitation there."

PHOTO BY GEORGE NAPOLITANO

Though he performed brilliantly in his three-way against John Cena and champion Brock Lesnar at The Royal Rumble in January, Rollins left the arena without the world title. However, he still had the contract to face the World champion at the time of his choosing.

But rolling the dice on a WWE career meant starting over for Rollins, who wound up dropping 34 spots to number 53 in the 2011 "500." Despite experiencing some success in Florida Championship Wrestling, as WWE's developmental offshoot was known at the time, after two years without a callup to the main roster, even Rollins couldn't help but question whether his WWE ship would ever come in.

"I definitely had a hefty amount of doubt in the system, and whether they had the faith in me that I had in myself … Watching other guys get called up before me and be given the opportunity that I felt I deserved certainly was very, very frustrating," Rollins said. "But a lot of times it's about getting opportunities. And if you don't play the game the right way, the opportunities aren't going to come your way. So I had to compromise a little bit in the way I was and how stubborn I was about some things."

Late in 2012, Rollins' big break came in the form of The Shield—the dominant three-man group that included fellow developmental callups Reigns and Ambrose. And almost from the moment they debuted, the question wasn't whether a Shield member would one day win the World title, but rather who would do it first.

"We were always competitive with each other and we knew when it came down to it, it was going to be a situation where we were competing with each other for the top spot," Rollins recalled. "It was just like, 'Hey one day we're going to take this place over and we're going to be fighting with each other for this title.'"

But for fans, those fights seemed unlikely as The Shield tore through WWE as a unified force. That is until Rollins turned his back on his partners in 2014 to join Triple-H and Stephanie McMahon's Authority faction.

"Anytime you make a drastic change like that, where you know you're going to create enemies, it can be pretty frightening," Rollins conceded. "At the time, it was pretty unnerving. But in the back of my mind, I thought I was making the right decision."

PHOTO BY ZACHARY TARRANT

After redeeming his MITB contract about 15 minutes into the grueling WrestleMania 31 title match between Lesnar and Roman Reigns, Rollins delivers a curb stomp to Reigns (above) and then soaks in the cheers of the Santa Clara fans after scoring the most important pinfall of his life (bottom).

Rollins got some confirmation of that thought when, weeks after splitting from The Shield, he won the Money in the Bank ladder match for a guaranteed World title shot. Later, he would become embroiled in a thrilling rivalry with Ambrose that would be voted 2014's Feud of the Year by *PWI* readers, and give Rollins his first pay-per-view singles match main event at Hell in a Cell.

"That was really important to me, just because we were on the same show with another Hell in a Cell match between Randy Orton and John Cena. And to follow them and to main-event that show, that was really awesome. And I think it kind of fell under the radar a little bit," Rollins said.

Even as the chorus of boos grew louder, Rollins continued to prove he made the right decision by putting The Shield in his rear-view mirror. He wrestled the sport's top star, John Cena, at TLC. And at the Royal Rumble, he got his first WWE title shot in a triple-threat match against Cena and Lesnar.

Then came WrestleMania, and that "moment that will never be forgotten."

Looking back on the many twists and turns his career took leading up to his place above all others in this year's "*PWI* 500," Rollins feels very blessed. "If I hadn't been at the right place at the right time with The Shield, none of it would have happened. And who knows where I would have been today? At the end of the day, everything worked out better than I could have ever imagined." □

PHOTO BY ZACHARY TARRANT

ROLLINS' SYSTEMATIC ROUTE TO THE TOP

IN A PERFECT world, men and women wrestlers would achieve greatness based solely on their ability to outwork their opponents. In today's very imperfect world, wrestlers are often rewarded for their ability to work the system.

Does Seth Rollins deserve the number-one spot in the "*PWI* 500" merely because he was smart enough to redeem his Money in the Bank contract at just the right moment during the Roman Reigns-Brock Lesnar WrestleMania 31 WWE title match? Perhaps not. But, by the same token, it wouldn't be fair to penalize the man for taking advantage of a legal opportunity. Has he at least served as an honorable champion since that memorable day in March? Again, perhaps not. But pro wrestling has never been a rules-driven endeavor, and the *"PWI* 500" is based on ends, not means. Rollins clearly met and exceeded all of our criteria to earn the number-one spot for the first time in his career.

This year, the "500" committee consisted of five veteran writers and editors hooked up electronically via gotomeeting.com. The bulk of the words were written by Senior Writer Dan Murphy, with some help from Senior Writers Al Castle and Harry Burkett, and Contributing Writers Mike Bessler, Louie D, Brady Hicks, and Kevin McElvaney.

The criteria for the "*PWI* 500" (in order of importance) are as follows:

- WIN-LOSS RECORD
- TECHNICAL ABILITY
- INFLUENCE ON THE SPORT
- SUCCESS AGAINST THE HIGHEST GRADE OF COMPETITION
- SUCCESS AGAINST THE MOST DIVERSE COMPETITION
- ACTIVITY

As always, keep in mind that the "*PWI* 500" is not a ranking for the calendar year January through December. The "evaluation period" this year runs from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

Events that took place after June 1 may be mentioned in the wrestlers' bios, but are not considered in their rankings.

Wrestlers must meet the following requirements for activity to be considered: 20 matches during the evaluation period or at least one match in seven separate months. Accordingly, notable wrestlers like Brock Lesnar, Triple-H, and The Undertaker are excluded.

1 SETH ROLLINS

6'1"/217 LBS | YEARS PRO: 10 | 2014 RANK: 12

PATH TO NUMBER 1

88 in 2008, 17 in 2009, 19 in 2010, 53 in 2011, 46 in 2012, 35 in 2013, 12 in 2014

TOP FIVE MOMENTS DURING EVALUATION PERIOD:

1. Audaciously cashed in his Money in the Bank briefcase during the main event of WrestleMania 31 on March 29 and pinned Roman Reigns in an impromptu triple-threat match to win Brock Lesnar's WWE World heavyweight championship.
2. Successfully defended the title against Randy Orton at Extreme Rules on April 26 after hitting Orton with his own RKO finisher and escaping the steel cage.
3. Defied the odds at Payback on May 17 in a Fatal 4-Way match against Reigns, Orton, and Dean Ambrose, pinning Orton to retain the title.
4. Narrowly bested Ambrose in a grueling 34-minute ladder match at Money in the Bank on June 14 to hold on to his championship.
5. Beat his nemesis, Ambrose, in a brutal Hell in a Cell grudge match on October 26.

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WHY HE'S NUMBER 1:

Fewer pro wrestling gambles have paid off better than that taken by Seth Rollins when he clobbered Roman Reigns in the back with a steel chair—effectively disbanding The Shield and joining The Authority … Within weeks, Rollins won the Money in the Bank guaranteed world title shot, which he would eventually cash in to capture the title he still wears … Got the better of his former ally Ambrose in a bitter rivalry that *PWI* readers picked as 2014's Feud of the Year … Despite being all too willing to take advantage of his Authority cohorts, Rollins is more than willing to match his skills against those of any challenger, up to and including Brock Lesnar … Developed that confidence during his first run atop a wrestling promotion as Ring of Honor heavyweight champion in 2010 … Utilizes innovative strikes, including a top-rope knee to a standing opponent … Didn't miss a beat after ditching his devastating finisher, the Curb Stomp, in favor of the equally effective Pedigree … That Triple-H would give Rollins his blessing to borrow his signature move says a lot about the future of WWE's "Architect."

2 JOHN CENA

6'3"/260 LBS | YEARS PRO: 15 | 2014 RANK: 3

PATH TO NUMBER 2

281 in 2001, 46 in 2002, 12 in 2003, 7 in 2004, 2 in 2005, 1 in 2006, 1 in 2007, 3 in 2008, 3 in 2009, 2 in 2010, 3 in 2011, 3 in 2012, 1 in 2013, 3 in 2014

TOP FIVE MOMENTS DURING EVALUATION PERIOD:

1. Dealt Rusev the first pinfall loss of his WWE career at WrestleMania 31, capturing the U.S. championship on April 29.
2. Defeated NXT champion Kevin Owens in a spectacular bout at Money in the Bank on June 14, avenging an earlier loss at Elimination Chamber.
3. Successfully defended the WWE World title at Battleground on July 20, 2014, in a Fatal 4-Way match against Roman Reigns, Randy Orton, and Kane.
4. Defeated longtime rival Orton in a Hell in a Cell match on October 26 to become the number-one contender to Brock Lesnar's World heavyweight championship.
5. Defeated Seth Rollins in a tables match with the number-one contendership on the line at 2014's TLC event on December 14.

WHY HE'S NUMBER 2:

A decade into his run as the biggest star in the sport, Cena is delivering some of the best performances of his career against the most varied mix of opponents he's ever faced … Although his 15th World title reign bled into the evaluation period, Cena's most praiseworthy work has come since winning his fourth U.S. championship … Has single-handedly elevated the secondary title into one of the most prestigious prizes in the sport, in large part due to his near-weekly "U.S. Open" defenses on *Raw* … After being dealt the most one-sided loss of his career against Brock Lesnar, has risen to the challenge of working with a new generation of stars, including Rusev, Kevin Owens, and Cesaro … Deserves credit for trying to expand his repertoire, even if some of his ideas (the springboard stunner) are best left on the drawing board … With his amazing triple-threat match with Lesnar and Seth Rollins at The Royal Rumble, and with his outings against Owens and Cesaro, "The Champ" is sure to be well-represented in this year's Match of the Year balloting.

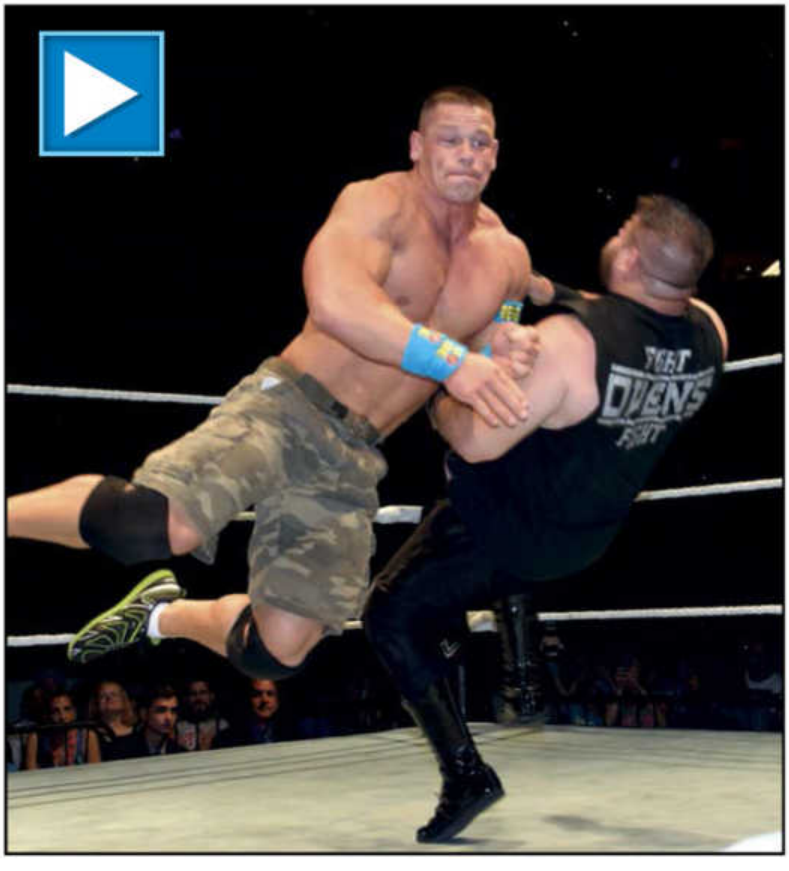

PHOTO BY STU SAKS

3 AJ STYLES

5'11"/215 LBS | YEARS PRO: 17 | 2014 RANK: 4

PATH TO NUMBER 3

458 in 2000, 199 in 2001, 70 in 2002, 11 in 2003, 8 in 2004, 7 in 2005, 13 in 2006, 32 in 2007, 21 in 2008, 19 in 2009, 1 in 2010, 24 in 2011, 28 in 2012, 28 in 2013, 4 in 2014

TOP FIVE MOMENTS DURING EVALUATION PERIOD:

1. Beat Hiroshi Tanahashi in decisive fashion in Osaka, Japan, on February 11 to capture his second IWGP heavyweight championship.
2. Successfully defended the title against Kota Ibushi on April 5 in Tokyo, hitting him with a Styles Clash as he came off the top rope and getting the pin.
3. Won seven of his nine matches in the 2014 G1 Climax tournament, including matches against Karl Anderson, Lance Archer, Hirooki Goto, Togi Makabe, Minoru Suzuki, Yujiro Takahashi, Hiroyoshi Tenzan and Toru Yano.
4. Beat Tetsuya Naito at Wrestle Kingdom 9 at the Tokyo Dome on January 4 to avenge his previous loss in the G1 Climax tournament.
5. Pinned former ROH heavyweight champion Adam Cole at War of the Worlds 2015 on May 12 after connecting with a piledriver-Styles Clash combination.

WHY HE'S NUMBER 3:

As a main-event star in not one, but two of the biggest wrestling promotions on the planet, there is little doubt that, at 38, "The Phenomenal One" is still very much in his prime … After dropping the title to Kazuchika Okada in July (after the evaluation period), Styles is now chasing his third IWGP championship, which, if successful, would match Vader as the only American wrestlers to do so … One of the most prominent faces of the unruly faction, The Bullet Club, both in NJPW and ROH … In addition to his work in NJPW and ROH, remains one of the most sought-after and successful wrestlers on the American and international independent scene, having racked up titles in numerous promotions, including the United Kingdom's Revolution Pro Wrestling … Bell-to-bell, one of the most polished in-ring performers in the world … The only thing more baffling than Vince McMahon not doing what is necessary to sign Styles is Dixie Carter not doing what was necessary to keep him.

PHOTO BY SCOTT FINKELSTEIN

4 ROMAN REIGNS

6'3"/265 LBS | YEARS PRO: 5 | 2014 RANK: 7

PATH TO NUMBER 4

351 in 2012, 39 in 2013, 7 in 2014

TOP FIVE MOMENTS DURING EVALUATION PERIOD:

1. Eliminated six people to win the 2015 Royal Rumble on January 25 and earn a World championship match at WrestleMania 31.
2. Showed true grit in his March 29 'Mania match against Brock Lesnar—laughing off several brutal suplexes and coming within a hair of winning before Seth Rollins interjected himself in the match and stole the victory.
3. Defeated Daniel Bryan at F lane on February 22 to cement his place as the number-one contender to the WWE World heavyweight title.
4. Beat The Big Show in a last-man-standing match at April 26's Extreme Rules event.
5. Pinned Randy Orton after a spear at SummerSlam on August 17, 2014—Reigns' biggest singles victory to that point.

WHY HE'S NUMBER 4:

Although he may have not reached the heights that many people—including, perhaps, Vince McMahon—expected him to reach over the past 12 months, by any definition Reigns had a successful year … It included a Royal Rumble win and multiple pay-per-view main events, including at the biggest event in the sport, WrestleMania … With some of the pressure off of him since headlining the "Show Of Shows," Reigns appears to have become more comfortable in the ring and on the microphone and continues to improve as a performer … Executes his signature moves with devastating impact, including his ring apron dropkick, Superman punch, and spear finisher … Has delivered quality matches against very different opponents, ranging from the undersized, technically proficient Bryan to the gargantuan powerhouse The Big Show … Rekindled alliance with former Shield partner Dean Ambrose has helped win over some fans who were on the fence about him … Many are waiting on the relationship to go bad, and Reigns to go bad along with it … Second-generation competitor has almost no wrestling experience outside of WWE, but clearly has the sport in his blood … Still a good bet to top this list one day, even if he never does live down that "sufferin' succotash" line.

PHOTO BY STU SAKS

5 SHINSUKE NAKAMURA

6'2"/230 LBS | YEARS PRO: 13 | 2014 RANK: 17

PATH TO NUMBER 5

130 in 2006, 96 in 2007, 10 in 2008, 24 in 2009, 7 in 2010, 45 in 2011, 47 in 2012, 54 in 2013, 17 in 2014

TOP FIVE MOMENTS DURING EVALUATION PERIOD:

1. Won his record fourth IWGP Intercontinental championship on September 21, 2014, by beating Bad Luck Fale in Kobe, Japan.
2. Made his second successful defense of the IWGP Intercontinental championship at Wrestle Kingdom 9 on January 4 in the Tokyo Dome, beating Kota Ibushi in a thrilling affair.
3. Beat former Ring of Honor heavyweight champion Roderick Strong at ROH's Global Wars Night 2 event in Toronto, Ontario, on May 16.
4. Defeated Japanese legend Yuji Nagata to retain the IWGP Intercontinental title on February 14 in Sendai, Japan.
5. Made his first successful title defense of his fourth Intercontinental title reign on November 8, pinning Katsuyori Shibata after three Boma Ye knees.

WHY HE'S NUMBER 5:

Few wrestlers have captivated fans—in Japan or anywhere—like the charismatic "King Of Strong Style" … Despite having his most recent IWGP Intercontinental title reign ended by Hirooki Goto in May, remains synonymous with the championship … His four reigns with the title are twice as many as the next closest former champion … Former mixed martial artist has the fighting credibility of Brock Lesnar, combined with the rock star sensuality of Prince … A three-time former IWGP heavyweight champion, having last held the title in 2009, but arguably a bigger star now … Nakamura's lavish ring walks are nearly as entertaining as his matches, as evidenced by his entrance at Wrestle Kingdom 9, which included flames, a red cape, and a Lady Liberty crown … Also had tag team success over the past year partnering with Tomohiro Ishii and other CHAOS stablemates Combines devastating strikes seamlessly with excruciating submission holds, including his cross-armbreaker and running triangle choke … Daniel Bryan revealed himself to be among Nakamura's fans, and lobbied to face him during WWE's tour of Japan in July …WWE passed on the idea, even though few wrestlers exude "sports entertainment" like Nakamura.

PHOTO BY ANDREA KELLAWAY/RING OF HONOR

6 RANDY ORTON

6'5"/250 LBS | YEARS PRO: 15 | 2014 RANK: 2

PATH TO NUMBER 6

217 in 2001, 33 in 2002, 63 in 2003, 4 in 2004, 29 in 2005, 30 in 2006, 15 in 2007, 1 in 2008, 5 in 2009, 4 in 2010, 2 in 2011, 14 in 2012, 15 in 2013, 2 in 2014

TOP FIVE MOMENTS DURING EVALUATION PERIOD:

1. Defeated Seth Rollins at WrestleMania 31 on March 29 to avenge a Rollins-led beatdown by The Authority that sidelined him for four months.
2. Defeated Roman Reigns and Ryback in a triple-threat match on the April 6 edition of *Raw* to become the number-one contender for the WWE World heavyweight championship.
3. Defeated Chris Jericho with an RKO off the top rope at September 21 Night of Champions event.
4. Beat his former Authority stablemates Rollins, Jamie Noble, and Joey Mercury in a three-on-one handicap match on the March 23 *Raw*.
5. Beat WWE tag team champions Cesaro and Tyson Kidd in a two-on one handicap match on the April 13 *Raw* in London, England.

PHOTO BY STU SAKS

WHY HE'S NUMBER 6:

In his 13th year in WWE, the "Viper" once again finds himself in the less familiar role of a fan favorite, and is making the most of it … Returned in February after a lengthy hiatus and made it his immediate mission to gain revenge against The Authority, which once handpicked him as the "Face Of WWE" … Beat Rollins at 'Mania, but was unable to do it again when it really counted, namely in a series of title matches after Rollins won the World heavyweight championship later that night … Has most recently transitioned into a feud with Sheamus … Continues to find new ways to execute his RKO finisher, the most impressive of which came out of an attempted Rollins Curb Stomp at WrestleMania … In addition to "12-time World champion," Orton was able to add another prestigious title to his resume last year: viral sensation … Fan-made videos of Orton RKO'ing everyone from singing ice skaters to scoring soccer players were all the rage for a while … As talented as he is, Orton's act does tend to grow stale quickly among fans, resulting in the frequent switches from rulebreaker to hero … A Hall of Famer for sure, but his inability to emote sincerity has held him back from reaching the next level.

7 JAY BRISCOE

6'/215 LBS | YEARS PRO: 15 | 2014 RANK: 38

PATH TO NUMBER 7

330 in 2006, 78 in 2007, 49 in 2008, 81 in 2009, 62 in 2010, 74 in 2011, 63 in 2012, 27 in 2013, 38 in 2014

TOP FIVE MOMENTS DURING EVALUATION PERIOD:

1. Upset Michael Elgin to capture his second Ring of Honor heavyweight championship on September 6 in Toronto at ROH's All Star Extravaganza event.
2. Beat longtime rival and former champion Adam Cole in a Fight Without Honor in the main event of ROH's Final Battle on December 7 in New York City.
3. Survived a four-corners match involving Elgin, Hanson, and Tommaso Ciampa to retain his title in the main event of ROH's 13th Anniversary pay-per-view event from Las Vegas, Nevada, on March 1.
4. Defeated former ROH and TNA heavyweight champion Samoa Joe to keep the ROH title at Supercard of Honor in Redwood City, California, on March 27.
5. Pinned ACH with his patented Jay Driller to retain the ROH heavyweight title in the main event of Glory by Honor 13 in San Antonio, Texas, on November 15.

PHOTO BY SCOTT FINKELSTEIN

WHY HE'S NUMBER 7:

You'd be hard-pressed to find a full-time wrestler anywhere in the world who has gone more than two years without suffering a pinfall loss … Briscoe could boast just that claim until he lost the ROH heavyweight title to Jay Lethal in June … Other successful title defenses came against the likes of Hanson, Bobby Fish, Silas Young, and Michael Bennett … Briscoe's singles dominance is especially impressive considering he has spent most of his career in the tag team ranks, partnering with his brother, Mark … Briscoe's two heavyweight championship reigns combine to total 375 days—the fifth most of any ROH heavyweight titleholder … He and Mark were reportedly considering an offer from WWE earlier this year, but chose instead to stay with ROH, for whom they have wrestled since the promotion's first show in 2002 … Jay Driller double-underhook piledriver almost always gets the job done … Few promos feel more authentic—and unnerving—as those delivered by Jay Briscoe.

8 RUSEV

6'/305 LBS | YEARS PRO: 6 | 2014 RANK: 65

PATH TO NUMBER 8

338 in 2011, 323 in 2012, NL in 2013, 65 in 2014

TOP FIVE MOMENTS DURING EVALUATION PERIOD:

1. Defeated WWE standard-bearer John Cena at Extreme Rules April 16, trapping him in his Accolade submission maneuver until Cena passed out.
2. Captured the U.S. championship from Sheamus in a WWE Network exclusive match on November 3.
3. Beat the mammoth Big Show by submission at October 26's Hell in a Cell event.
4. Made Mark Henry tap out in a singles match at September 21's Night of Champions event.
5. Retained his U.S. title in a 20-man battle royal on the November 25 edition of *Smackdown.*

WHY HE'S NUMBER 8:

Vladimir Putin's favorite wrestler was nothing short of unstoppable in his first year in WWE, having not been dealt a pinfall or submission loss for more than 14 months … Holds victories against Dolph Ziggler, Jack Swagger, and Rob Van Dam during the evaluation period, to name just a few … Got some serious superstar rub when The Rock made a surprise appearance at the October 6 edition of *Raw* from Brooklyn, New York, and engaged in a verbal, and physical, altercation with the self-professed "Hero Of The Russian Federation" Momentum slowed considerably after he dropped three straight matches to Cena, lost his popular valet Lana to Dolph Ziggler, and was sidelined for weeks with a foot injury … Although Roman Reigns may get more attention, Rusev may be the best homegrown success story in WWE's developmental system … From his appearance to his wrestling style to even his accent, Rusev stands out as one of the more unique personalities on the WWE roster … Although his Accolade camel clutch finisher has been his bread and butter, Rusev's jumping side kick is nearly as vicious … Rusev's former trainer, Rikishi, acknowledged him during his WWE Hall of Fame induction speech, calling him by his former name, Miroslav.

PHOTO BY STU SAKS

9 ALBERTO EL PATRON

6'5"/239 LBS | YEARS PRO: 14 | 2014 RANK: 22

PATH TO NUMBER 9

160 in 2005, 45 in 2006, 115 in 2007, 73 in 2008, 88 in 2009, 83 in 2010, 6 in 2011, 10 in 2012, 8 in 2013, 22 in 2014

TOP FIVE MOMENTS DURING EVALUATION PERIOD:

1. Defeated El Texano Jr. in the main event of AAA's big Guerra de Titanes event on December 12 to capture his first AAA heavyweight championship in Zapopan, Jalisco, Mexico.
2. Retained the AAA heavyweight title in a bullrope rematch against El Texano that aired on *Lucha Underground.*
3. Won his Ring of Honor debut match against Christopher Daniels on January 3 in Nashville, Tennessee, making Daniels tap to his cross-armbreaker.
4. Beat Johnny Mundo on the May 6 edition of *Lucha Underground* to earn a number-one contendership match against Hernandez.
5. Defeated Dolph Ziggler on the July 7, 2014, edition of *Raw* to become number-one contender to the WWE U.S. title.

WHY HE'S NUMBER 9:

Like AJ Styles did before him, Alberto El Patron has proved that life as a free agent—after years of national television exposure—isn't so bad … Alberto's four-year run in WWE, which included four world title reigns and a Royal Rumble victory, came to a very ugly end in August 2014 when he was fired following a physical altercation with a WWE office worker … Was so in demand following his departure that AAA promoters footed his legal bill in a lawsuit against WWE in order to expedite his full release … El Patron, or "The Boss," made his triumphant return to the Mexican lucha libre scene at last year's Triplemania event, accompanied by his legendary father Dos Caras … Ring of Honor fans immediately embraced Alberto, who has made sporadic appearances there … Has been similarly adored by fans of Lucha Underground since becoming a regular in the upstart promotion in January … Freed of some of the creative constraints of WWE, Alberto has displayed previously untapped star power in the ring and on the mic in recent months.

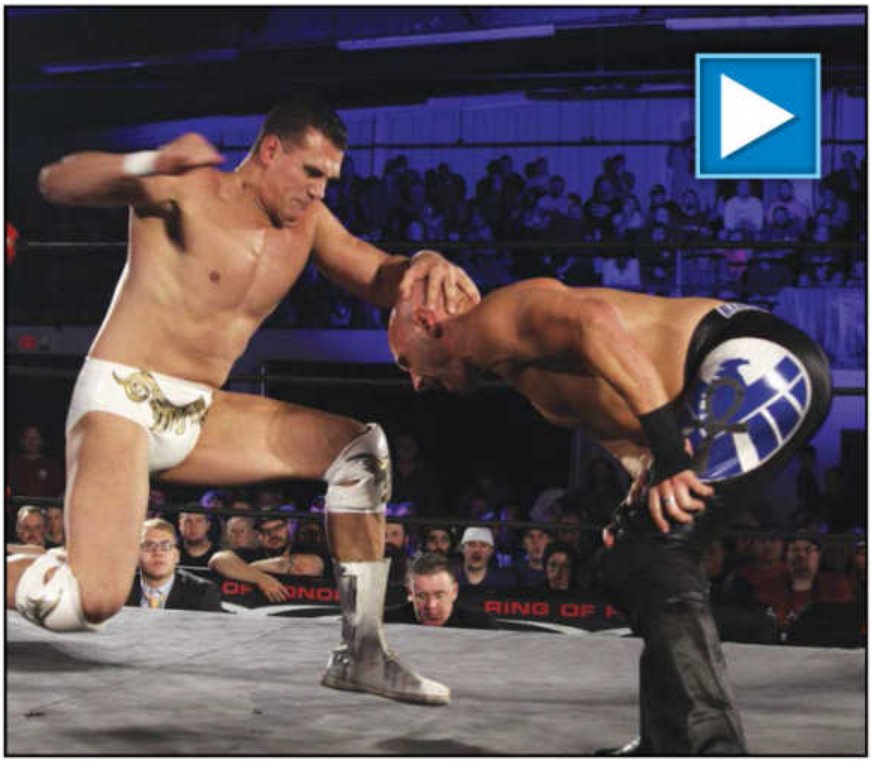

PHOTO BY LEE SOUTH/RING OF HONOR

10 KEVIN OWENS

6'/266 LBS | YEARS PRO: 14 | 2014 RANK: 27

PATH TO NUMBER 10

342 in 2006, 129 in 2007, 180 in 2008, 112 in 2009, 54 in 2010, 122 in 2011, 20 in 2012, 10 in 2013, 27 in 2014

TOP FIVE MOMENTS DURING EVALUATION PERIOD:

1. Scored a clean pinfall victory against wrestling's biggest star, John Cena, in his WWE debut match at May 31's Elimination Chamber event.
2. Beat Sami Zayn to win the NXT championship on February 11, just two months after wrestling his first match in WWE's developmental brand.
3. Retained the NXT title in his first match on *Raw*, defeating former champion Neville on June 8.
4. Beat Finn Balor with his signature pop-up power bomb to retain the NXT title on February 18.
5. Defeated Steve Corino in his final Ring of Honor match on July 19, 2014, in Dearborn, Michigan.

PHOTO BY STU SAKS

WHY HE'S NUMBER 10:

It's hard to remember the last wrestler who has made as big an impact in as short a time in WWE as Kevin Owens … Far from a fluke, Owens' win over Cena in his first WWE match proved that the Marieville, Quebec, native could hang with wrestling's upper echelon, and belongs in it … Despite losing, Owens looked as good, or even better, in his rematch against Cena at Money in the Bank … Also picked up wins against Dolph Ziggler, Alex Riley, and Cesaro during the evaluation period … Owens' meteoric rise through WWE's ranks is especially impressive considering the importance that Vince McMahon typically puts on cosmetic appearance … Despite carrying a few extra pounds around his midsection, Owens is unquestionably in peak athletic condition, and can routinely go 30 minutes without huffing and puffing … Had a big hand in elevating NXT from its status as merely WWE's minor league system to, arguably, wrestling's hottest product in 2015 … A decade after it began on the northeast independent circuit, the soap opera that is Owens' relationship with Sami Zayn continued to play out in NXT in 2015, and could even climax on the WrestleMania stage one day.

11 HIROSHI TANAHASHI (5'11", 230, 22, 11)

Top NJPW star continues making his case for belonging on the Mount Rushmore of Japanese wrestling legends … Defeated AJ Styles last October for his record-setting 7th IWGP heavyweight championship … Latest title reign lasted five months and included a successful defense against Okada at the annual Tokyo Dome show in January.

12 DOLPH ZIGGLER (6', 218, 11, 54)

WWE veteran had a few career highlights over the last year, including overcoming 3-on-1 odds to oust The Authority from power in the main event of Survivor Series … Wore the Intercontinental title three times during the evaluation period … A perennial sympathetic favorite among WWE fans, if not decision-makers.

13 DEAN AMBROSE (6'4", 225, 11, 18)

The most popular wrestler of 2014, as voted by *PWI* readers, spent most of the past year feuding with former Shield partner Seth Rollins, but was unable to wrest away the World title in numerous attempts … Outrageous antics, like hijacking a police truck and a hot dog cart, are more cartoonish than lunatic.

14 DANIEL BRYAN (5'10", 210, 16, 1)

Last year's top ranked wrestler missed more than half of the evaluation period with injuries, but found success during the five months he was around … Won the Intercontinental title in a six-man ladder match at WrestleMania—making him one of the few wrestlers to have held every active men's championship in WWE … Wrestling future is far from certain.

15 NEVILLE (5'10", 194, 11, 39)

The longest-reigning NXT champion successfully defended the title against a slew of challengers before losing it in December to Sami Zayn … Has fared well since being called up to WWE's main roster in March, picking up wins against King Barrett and Bo Dallas … Aerial move set is truly unforgettable, even if gravity disagrees.

16 PRINCE PUMA (5'10", 175, 11, 53)

Whether behind a mask as a Lucha Underground hero, or as independent standout Ricochet, the Illinois native has enjoyed a career year … Won a 20-man battle royal to become the inaugural Lucha Underground champion, and held the title for nearly 200 days … A top contender in Dragon Gate and EVOLVE.

17 JAY LETHAL (5'10", 225, 14, 35)

ROH veteran achieved a career pinnacle in June when he unseated Jay Briscoe to become the company's heavyweight champion, while also holding the TV title … Amassed several impressive victories, including against Alberto El Patron, Tetsuya Naito, and Roderick Strong … Under the guidance of the slick Truth Martini, Lethal has come a long way since his days as "Black Machismo."

PHOTO BY SCOTT FINKELSTEIN

18 LASHLEY (6'2", 245, 16, 15)

Technically sound powerhouse wore the TNA heavyweight championship twice in the evaluation period—losing it to, and winning it back from, Bobby Roode … Holds wins over Kenny King, Gunner, Tyrus, and Eric Young … Competitive future will likely involve the MMA cage more than the wrestling ring.

19 MINORU SUZUKI (5'10", 220, 26, 209)

Two months after leading his Suzuki-gun stable's invasion of Pro Wrestling NOAH, captured the company's top title, the GHC heavyweight championship, from Naomichi Marafuji … Successfully defended the title against Maybach Taniguchi in June … MMA pioneer competed extensively in New Japan earlier in the evaluation period.

20 KING BARRETT (6'7", 246, 11, 37)

British big man won an eight-man, two-night tournament in April to be crowned the 19th WWE King of the Ring … Also captured his fifth Intercontinental title in January, beating Dolph Ziggler in a two-out-of-three falls match … Has dropped far too many matches as of late, including against the likes of R-Truth and Neville.

21 BRAY WYATT (6'3", 285, 5, 6)

Mysterious WWE competitor has kept busy feuding with a slew of WWE top stars, including Dean Ambrose, The Undertaker, and Roman Reigns … Lost to 'Taker at WrestleMania in his highest-profile match to date … Lasted 47 minutes in the Royal Rumble … Cryptic promo style has gotten a little exhausting.

22 BOBBY ROODE (6', 240, 16, 36)

One of the last remaining TNA stalwarts held the company's heavyweight title for nearly four months, although TNA did not run shows during much of that time … Has earned victories against Eric Young, Austin Aries, and Lashley … Teamed with Aries as The Dirty Heels and feuded with The Wolves over the tag team championship.

23 SAMI ZAYN (6'1", 205, 13, 44)

After several failed title challenges, popular NXT competitor finally captured the NXT title from Neville in December and wore it for two months before losing it to Kevin Owens … Appeared to get his big break when he challenged John Cena for the U.S. title on *Raw* in May, but got injured on his way to the ring and has been sidelined since.

24 LUKE HARPER (6'5", 275, 12, 34)

Imposing brawler found some singles success since being set free from the Wyatt Family in September of last year … Wore the Intercontinental title for a month after beating Dolph Ziggler for it in November … Has occasionally teamed with Erick Rowan … Look and style is deliberately reminiscent of Bruiser Brody.

25 KURT ANGLE (6', 240, 18, 48)

After an injury forced him into a non-wrestling role for six months, the Olympic gold medalist returned to the ring in January, and wasted no time in capturing his record sixth TNA heavyweight title from Bobby Lashley … Successfully defended the title against Eric Young, Rockstar Spud, and Austin Aries … Went back on the shelf with neck issues in July.

26 MIL MUERTES (6'1", 245, 18, 171)

Frightening Mexican heavyweight is a major player in AAA, where he wrestles as El Mesias, and in Lucha Underground, where he wears the heavyweight championship … Beat Prince Puma to win the championship in April … Made it to the finals of AAA's annual Rey de Reyes tournament.

27 KAZUCHIKA OKADA (6'3", 240, 10, 5)

Reigning IWGP heavyweight champion is already being talked about among the all-time Japanese greats at the age of 27 … Third reign with the title began just after the evaluation period ended … Unsuccessfully challenged Tanahashi for the title in the Tokyo Dome in January … "The Rainmaker" possesses the best dropkick in the sport.

28 FINN BALOR (5'11", 190, 15, 30)

The former Prince Devitt has risen to the top of NXT since arriving in September … Beat Curtis Axel, Hideo Itami, and Neville in a tournament for a shot at the NXT title … Beat Kevin Owens for the title just after the end of the evaluation period … Hypnotic ring entrance is sure to be a big hit on WWE's main stage.

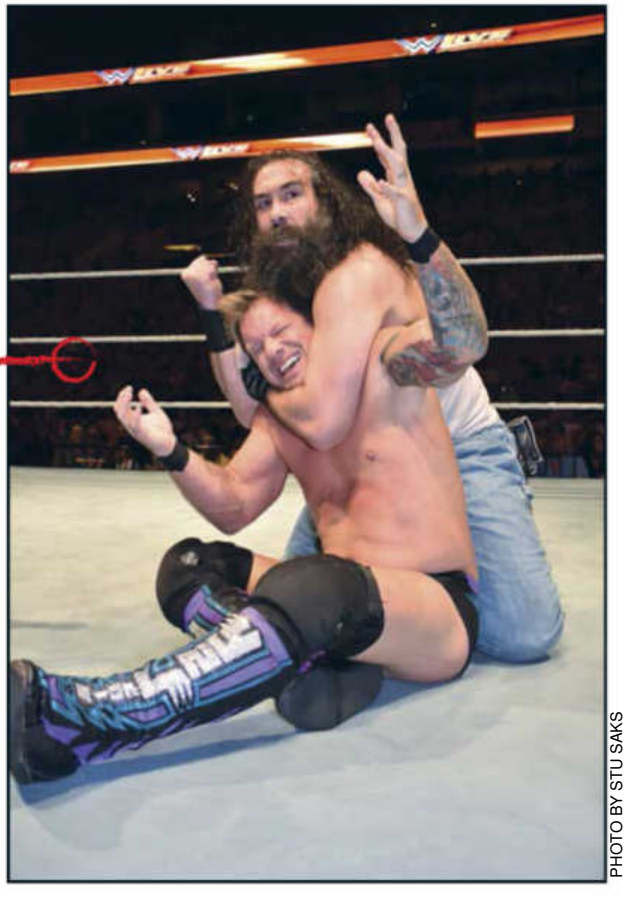

PHOTO BY STU SAKS

29 RYBACK (6'3", 291, 11, 75)

The "Big Guy" captured his first title in WWE in May when he won a six-man Elimination Chamber match to fill the vacant Intercontinental championship … Holds wins over The Miz, Luke Harper, and Kane … Returned to WWE in October after a two-month absence with a renewed focus … Credits his positive outlook on life for his recent success.

30 ETHAN CARTER III (6'2", 222, 13, 50)

The obnoxious nephew of TNA President Dixie Carter has gone undefeated since debuting in the company on October 2013 … Beat Kurt Angle for the TNA heavyweight title on June 25 … Feuded with former lackey Rockstar Spud … The closest thing to a bona fide star that TNA has created in years.

31 GO SHIOZAKI (6'4", 240, 11, 131)

Exciting All Japan star captured his first Triple Crown heavyweight championship in January, beating Joe Doering with his signature lariat … Held the title for five months, defending it against Zeus and Kento Miyahara … Currently one-half of the AJPW tag champions with Miyahara … A two-time former GHC champ in NOAH.

32 JOHNNY MUNDO (6', 215, 12, NL)

The former John Morrison has found a comfortable home in Lucha Underground promotion, where he has showcased his acrobatic and acting abilities … Beat Prince Puma in LU's premiere episode … Defeated King Cuerno in a thrilling cage match in January … Calls his finisher "El Fin Del Mundo" or "The End Of The World."

33 ERIC YOUNG (6', 225, 15, 19)

TNA veteran is a better fit as a rule-breaking top contender than he was as an underdog heavyweight champion … Scored big wins against Bobby Roode in a submission match and against heavyweight champ Kurt Angle in a non-title stretcher match … Could not repeat the task when the title was on the line.

34 KUSHIDA (5'9", 192, 9, NL)

Agile competitor held NJPW junior heavyweight crown for two months in 2014, and won this year's Best of the Super Juniors tournament … Won the junior heavyweight title again in July from Kenny Omega, but the victory came after the evaluation period … Teams with Alex Shelley as the popular Time Splitters.

35 KYLE O'REILLY (5'11", 196, 10, 61)

Fiery striker has the tools to become ROH's next breakout star … Held the ROH tag team championship with Bobby Fish for 11 months before losing it in April … reDRagon also held the IWGP junior heavyweight tag title … Made it to the finals of NJPW's Best of the Super Juniors tournament.

36 THE BIG SHOW (7', 450, 20, 33)

Colossus spent most of the last year as the muscle behind The Authority … Fittingly won the second annual Andre the Giant Memorial battle royal at WrestleMania … Most recently set his sights on Ryback's Intercontinental title … Another main event run is always right around the corner.

37 DREW GALLOWAY (6'5", 254, 14, 196)

The former Drew McIntyre has worked hard over the past year to prove he's better than his last WWE run might suggest … Won both the EVOLVE championship and the DGUSA Open the Freedom Gate championship … Debuted in TNA in January and formed the

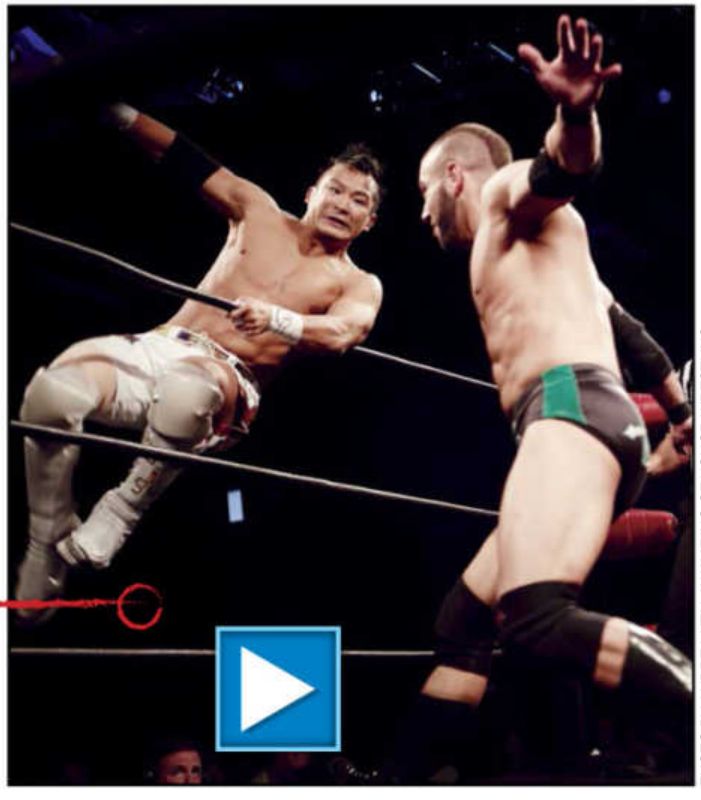

PHOTO BY ANDREA KELLAWAY/RING OF HONOR WRESTLING

38 HIDEO ITAMI (5'9", 182, 15, 32)

The former KENTA has won over NXT fans since debuting there in September … Won a one-night tournament to earn a spot in the 20-man battle royal at WrestleMania … Has been sidelined with a shoulder injury since April … Very limited English could influence how far he goes in WWE.

39 ADAM COLE (6', 190, 7, 9)

ROH agitator missed five months of ring time with a shoulder injury … Won the 2014 Survival of the Fittest tournament … Was unable to regain the ROH championship in a "Fight Without Honor" against Jay Briscoe at Final Battle … Size may be the only thing holding him back from greatness.

40 KOTA IBUSHI (5'11", 190, 11, 107)

Longtime junior heavyweight has tried his luck in NJPW's heavyweight division over the past year … Won the 2015 New Japan Cup tourney … Unsuccessfully challenged for Shinsuke Nakamura's Intercontinental title and AJ Styles' heavyweight title in 2015 … A frequent competitor in Japan's DDT promotion.

41 CESARO (6'5", 232, 15, 13)

WWE's pound-for-pound strongest competitor has a knack for stealing shows with his wrestling performances … Had great chemistry with Tyson Kidd, with whom he held the tag team championship for two months … Could finally be on the brink of a major singles run … Apparently too Swiss for Vince McMahon's liking.

42 SHEAMUS (6'4", 267, 13, 21)

Three-time former World champion returned to WWE in March with a new haircut and a new chip on his shoulder … In June, earned the Money in the Bank briefcase for a guaranteed World title shot … Held the U.S. title for six months before losing it to Rusev in November 2014.

43 MICHAEL ELGIN (6'1", 215, 12, 14)

Powerful ROH competitor's heavyweight title reign lasted a surprisingly short two months before being ended by Jay Briscoe last September … A public falling-out with the management may have affected his standing in the company … Beat KUSHIDA at War of the Worlds in May.

44 BIG E (5'11", 285, 6, 24)

WWE powerhouse has finally displayed some real personality—albeit an obnoxious one—as one-third of The New Day … Teamed with Kofi Kingston to beat Tyson Kidd and Cesaro for the tag team championship in April … Also has singles victories over Titus O'Neil, Adam Rose, and Stardust.

45 BOBBY FISH (5'11", 200, 13, 72)

Seasoned grappler held tag team gold in ROH and New Japan with his reDRagon partner Kyle O'Reilly over the past year … Unsuccessfully challenged Jay Briscoe for the ROH heavyweight title in May … Finished second in his block in the NJPW 2015 Best of the Super Juniors tournament.

46 SAMOA JOE (6'2", 282, 16, 31)

The "Submission Machine" finally made the jump to WWE in May, but for now has remained on the NXT developmental brand … In February, ended a 10-year run in TNA, and soon after made a brief return to ROH, where he unsuccessfully challenged for Jay Briscoe's heavyweight title … At 36, can waste no time in making an impact in WWE.

PHOTO BY GEORGE NAPOLITANO

47 JEFF HARDY (6'2", 215, 22, 29)

Popular daredevil mostly competed in TNA's tag division with brother Matt … The Hardys won the tag title in March, but had to vacate two months later after Jeff broke his leg in a dirt bike crash … Has tamed over the years, but still takes more risks than he should—both in and out of the ring.

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48 NAOMICHI MARUFUJI (5'8", 200, 17, 130)

Second reign as GHC heavyweight champion in NOAH lasted eight months until coming to an end in March … Successfully defended the title against Satoshi Kojima and Takashi Sugiura … Also holds the office of vice president in NOAH … Has made sporadic appearances in New Japan.

49 JIMMY USO (6'3", 251, 8, 25)

More charismatic half of the popular Uso twins has gone it alone since Jey suffered a shoulder injury in March … Second reign with the WWE tag team championship lasted about two months … Has picked up several singles victories at WWE live events, including against Luke Harper and Stardust.

50 AUSTIN ARIES (5'9", 210, 14, 23)

Won a Feast or Fired briefcase for an opportunity to regain the TNA heavyweight championship, but lost the title match to Kurt Angle … Sixth reign as X division champion lasted a day … "A Double" wrapped up a four-year stint in TNA in June, and was expected back in ROH during the summer.

51 KANE (7', 323, 21, 42)

WWE's director of operations—and a corporate stooge of The Authority—since 2013 … Instrumental in the success of this year's "500" number one, Seth Rollins, before and after his World title victory at WrestleMania 31 … Still doing The Authority's bidding, but shares in the fans' resentment of Rollins.

52 KOFI KINGSTON (6', 212, 10, 59)

Experienced a resurgence as a member of The New Day with Big E and Xavier Woods, even winning a share of the WWE World tag team title … Retained his high-flying style, but occasionally puts his feet on the ropes to show he's a heel … Not a bad guy in the classic sense; fans love to jeer him.

53 TYSON KIDD (5'10", 195, 20, 113)

Avoided paralysis against Samoa Joe on June 7, but will miss about one year due to the neck and spinal injury he suffered in that fateful *Raw* dark match … A tough break for Kidd, who had achieved a breakthrough this year—winning the World tag title with Cesaro—after toiling in WWE for a decade.

54 KENNY OMEGA (6', 202, 13, 183)

Surprised fans by joining The Bullet Club upon his New Japan return in November … Defeated Ryusuke Taguchi for the IWGP junior heavyweight title at Wrestle Kingdom 9 in January … Successfully defended the title against Mascara Dorada and Alex Shelley … Sporadically appears in California's PWG.

55 DAVEY RICHARDS (5'8", 205, 11, 49)

He and Eddie Edwards dominated Team 3-D and The Hardys in 2014, and beat out Austin Aries and Bobby Roode in a best-of-five series for the TNA tag team title in 2015 … The Wolves are tied with Beer Money for the most TNA reigns in history, at four apiece … Married Angelina Love in June.

56 JAMES STORM (6', 240, 15, 46)

Led The Revolution in TNA, demonstrating a Raven-like hold over his charges, including The Great Sanada, Manik, and Abyss … Beat Magnus in a non-sanctioned match at Slammiversary 13, ending a personal feud that involved Magnus' fiancee, Mickie James … A WWE deal appears imminent.

57 MAXIMO (5'7", 203, 15, NL)

Defeated El Terrible for the CMLL heavyweight title on January 30 … His father, Brazo de Plata, held the same belt … Utilizes a diving Lou Thesz press … Portrays an exotico, exemplified by his Greco-Roman Liplock, which is actually a kiss, usually applied after blocking several strikes from an opponent.

58 ACH (5'9", 190, 8, 158)

Wrestled TV champion Jay Lethal to a 30-minute draw on *Ring Of Honor Wrestling* last August … Made a valiant losing effort against heavyweight champ Jay Briscoe in his home state of Texas in November … Teamed with Brian Cage and Moose in the Lucha Libre World Cup in Mexico City … Idolizes Booker T.

59 BxB HULK (5'10", 172, 10, 91)

Moved up in the "500" due to his impressive series of Open the Dream Gate title defenses in 2014-15, including wins over Cyber Kong, Akira Tozawa, and Shingo Takagi … Barely recovered from a separated shoulder before his victory over Punch Tominaga … Dropped the belt to Masato Yoshino on June 14.

60 THE MIZ (6'2", 231, 12, 56)

Rebounded from his WWE Intercontinental title loss to Dolph Ziggler at SummerSlam 2014 to have an unexpectedly entertaining run with his "stunt double," Damien Sandow … Career faltered after Sandow abandoned Miz due to his domineering ways … Filmed *Santa's Little Helper* for WWE Studios in 2015.

61 TYLER BREEZE (6'1", 195, 8, 95)

Continued his feud with Adrian Neville in NXT until the British star received a full-time callup to WWE … Close but not quite seems to be the theme of Breeze's career, as he has racked up losses to Hideo Itami and Finn Balor in the NXT title chase … His jumping spinning heel kick is known as the "Beauty Shot."

62 RODERICK STRONG (5'10", 212, 14, 58)

"Mr. ROH" turned fan favorite again after fending off Decade running buddies B.J. Whitmer and Adam Page in a two-on-one attack … Defeated Page at Final Battle 2014 … Won his third Full Impact Pro singles championship in 2015 … Aligned with The Young Bucks and Super Dragon in PWG.

63 HIJO DE FANTASMA (5'11", 200, 15, NL)

Unified the AAA Fusion and cruiserweight championships in a 10-way elimination match at TripleMania 22 … Transformed his ghost persona into that of a hunter as King Cuerno in Lucha Underground … Dominated his feud with Drago, but struggled against Johnny Mundo.

64 CHRISTOPHER DANIELS (6', 224, 22, 81)

He and Addiction partner Frankie Kazarian beat Bobby Fish and Kyle O'Reilly for the ROH tag team title on April 4 … At 45 years of age, Daniels is the oldest man to hold a championship in ROH … Unlike their time in TNA, Kazarian does most of the talking … Also aligned with Chris Sabin.

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65 STARDUST (6'2", 220, 9, 82)

He and Goldust turned heel and beat The Usos for their second WWE World tag title at Night of Champions … The freaks lost the belts to The Miz and Damien Mizdow at Survivor Series … Turned on Goldust and has competed as a single since WrestleMania … The results suggest he should make up with his brother.

66 MATT JACKSON (5'10", 172, 11, 80)

Teamed with brother Nick to beat Andrew Elliott and Trevor Lee for their fourth PWG tag title … The Young Bucks formed Mount Rushmore 2.0 with Roderick Strong and Super Dragon … They lost to reDRagon at ROH's 13th anniversary show … The current IWGP junior heavyweight tag champs.

67 NICK JACKSON (5'10", 178, 11, 76)

He and older brother Matt comprise The Young Bucks … They beat reDRagon and The Time Splitters for the IWGP junior heavyweight tag belts … The Bucks lost the straps to Rocky Romero and Trent Barreta, but regained them in a bout also involving reDRagon … They also appear in ROH and PWG.

PHOTO BY SCOTT FINKELSTEIN

68 HIROYOSHI TENZAN (6', 250, 24, 108)

Defeated Rob Conway for the NWA heavyweight title on February 14, a sweet victory because Tenzan and Satoshi Kojima had feuded with Conway and Jax Dane since 2013 … Tenzan and Kojima, known as Tencozy, lost the NWA tag belts to Lance Archer and Davey Boy Smith Jr. in October.

69 FRANKIE KAZARIAN (6'1", 225, 17, 86)

Holds the ROH tag team title with Addiction partner Christopher Daniels … Their feud with ex-champs Bobby Fish and Kyle O'Reilly continued well into the summer … Adopted the Tomikaze, a inverted double-underhook facebuster, from the late Tommy Rogers … One of Killer Kowalski's final students.

70 MARK BRISCOE (6', 180, 15, 96)

Morphed into Luke Harper before our very eyes … Served as gatekeeper for contenders seeking Jay Briscoe's ROH title … His older brother's ROH title reign allowed Mark to grow significantly as a singles force … Opponents fear his inverted Death Valley Driver … Jay Lethal's heavyweight title victory over brother Jay opens new opportunities.

71 MAGNUS (6'3", 240, 12, 8)

Plunged in this year's "500," holding the TNA title during the 2013-14 evaluation period and dropping 63 notches in 2014-15 … Losing to the departing James Storm at Slammiversary 13 didn't help … At least fiancee Mickie James survived her train tracks mishap.

72 JEY USO (6'2", 228, 8, 26)

The Usos' 202-day WWE tag title reign ended last September at the hands of Goldust and Stardust … They won their second tag title from The Miz and Damien Mizdow, but lost to Tyson Kidd and Cesaro a month later … Aggravated a shoulder injury at WrestleMania … Expected to return by year's end.

73 DOC GALLOWS (6'8", 305, 10, 98)

He and Karl Anderson reigned as IWGP tag champs for one year before losing the belts to Hirooki Goto and Katsuyori Shibata at Wrestle Kingdom 9 at the Tokyo Dome … They regained the title the next month … Traded the belts with Michael Bennett and Matt Taven … Modern-day Giant Bernard.

74 MATT HARDY (6'2", 235, 21, 47)

Teamed with brother Jeff to capture the vacant TNA tag title in a four-way "Ultimate X" match … The Hardys vacated the title after Jeff broke his leg in a dirt bike accident … Participated in bouts against Team 3-D and The Wolves … Held the Maryland Championship Wrestling title … Appeared in Japan's Wrestle-1.

75 EDDIE EDWARDS (6', 214, 14, 45)

The Wolves established their greatness in 2014-15, emerging victorious with the TNA tag belts after a best-of-three series against Team 3-D and The Hardys, and a best-of-five series against The Dirty Heels … Speaking of which, Edwards suffered a broken heel against partner Davey Richards in February.

76 HIROOKI GOTO (6', 227, 12, 252)

Teamed with childhood friend and frequent rival Katsuyori Shibata to defeat Karl Anderson and Doc Gallows in the 2014 World Tag League final and again for the IWGP belts at Wrestle Kingdom 9 … Lost the straps back to Anderson and Gallows … Won the IWGP I-C title from Shinsuke Nakamura in May.

77 XAVIER WOODS (5'9", 205, 10, 185)

Persuaded Big E and Kofi Kingston to join him, leading to the birth of The New Day … Eliminated by The Big Show in the Andre the Giant Memorial Battle Royal at WM 31 … Utilized the Freebird rule to help defend the WWE tag title this past spring, although it was Big E and Kingston who actually won the straps.

78 CAGE (6', 242, 10, NL)

Rampaged Lucha Underground for five months, brutalizing LU champion Prince Puma and manager Konnan in the lead-up to his first title match … Suffered his first LU loss to Puma … His momentum went utterly cold when he lost to The Mack twice … Competes in other California indies as Brian Cage.

79 KARL ANDERSON (6', 240, 13, 70)

He and Doc Gallows lost the IWGP tag belts to Hirooki Goto and Katsuyori Shibata at Wrestle Kingdom 9, but regained them the following month … They also traded the title with Michael Bennett and Matt Taven … The pair debuted for Global Force Wrestling in June … Leader of the feared Bullet Club.

80 TETSUYA NAITO (5'11", 225, 10, 63)

Upset Kazuchika Okada in the 2014 G1 Climax, but lost in an IWGP title match against Okada … Lost to TV champ Jay Lethal during the ROH-New Japan tour of North America … Joined La Sombra in a failed bid for the CMLL tag title in Mexico … Returned to New Japan with more intensity.

81 DAVEY BOY SMITH JR. (6'5", 260, 15, 106)

Scored a big win over Hiroshi Tanahashi in the 2014 G1 Climax … He and Killer Elite Squad partner Lance Archer beat Satoshi Kojima and Hiroyoshi Tenzan for the NWA tag title … They also invaded Pro Wrestling NOAH to beat Shane Haste and Mikey Nicholls for the GHC tag belts.

82 MICHAEL BENNETT (5'10", 225, 13, 103)

He and Matt Taven defeated Karl Anderson and Doc Gallows for the IWGP tag title, but lost the belts back to them after our evaluation period … Dissension is brewing within The Kingdom, which includes his new wife, Maria Kanellis, Adam Cole, and Taven … Feuding with reDRagon.

PHOTO BY SCOTT FINKELSTEIN

83 ROB CONWAY (6'1", 234, 15, 68)

His second reign as NWA champion lasted eight months … As impressive as ever when he and Chase Owens beat Jushin Liger and Hiroyoshi Tenzan on February 11 in Osaka, Japan … That's why it was a stunner when he lost the NWA belt to Tenzan three days later in Sendai … Still a physical specimen.

84 CHRIS JERICHO (6', 226, 25, 55)

Celebrating a quarter-century in the business, but two big losses to Bray Wyatt—at SummerSlam and inside a steel cage on *Raw*—indicated his best years are behind him … Attacked by Randy Orton and Brock Lesnar in separate incidents … Wrestled mostly in non-televised bouts … Hosts *Tough Enough.*

85 CEDRIC ALEXANDER (5'10", 209, 6, 178)

Highly competitive in 2014-15, but lost matches to ROH champ Michael Elgin, TV champ Jay Lethal, Christopher Daniels, Adam Page, and Tommaso Ciampa … Ended Moose's undefeated streak in May by smashing him with a wrench—despicable … Turned on Caprice Coleman, too.

86 BARON CORBIN (6'6", 275, 3, 274)

The ex-offensive lineman and Golden Gloves champ returned with a vengeance, proving he was indeed "the alpha of NXT" in rivalries with C.J. Parker, Bull Dempsey, and Rhino … Adopted classic big-man moves, including Kevin Nash's Snake Eyes, Bruiser Brody's big boot, and Stan Hansen's lariat.

87 TEXANO JR. (6'1", 220, 16, 79)

His record-breaking two-year AAA title reign ended on December 7, courtesy of Alberto El Patron … Their feud carried over to Lucha Underground, where Alberto beat him in a bullrope match … Won the Rey de Reyes tournament on March 15 … Master of several suplex variations.

88 AKEBONO (6'8", 500, 10, 41)

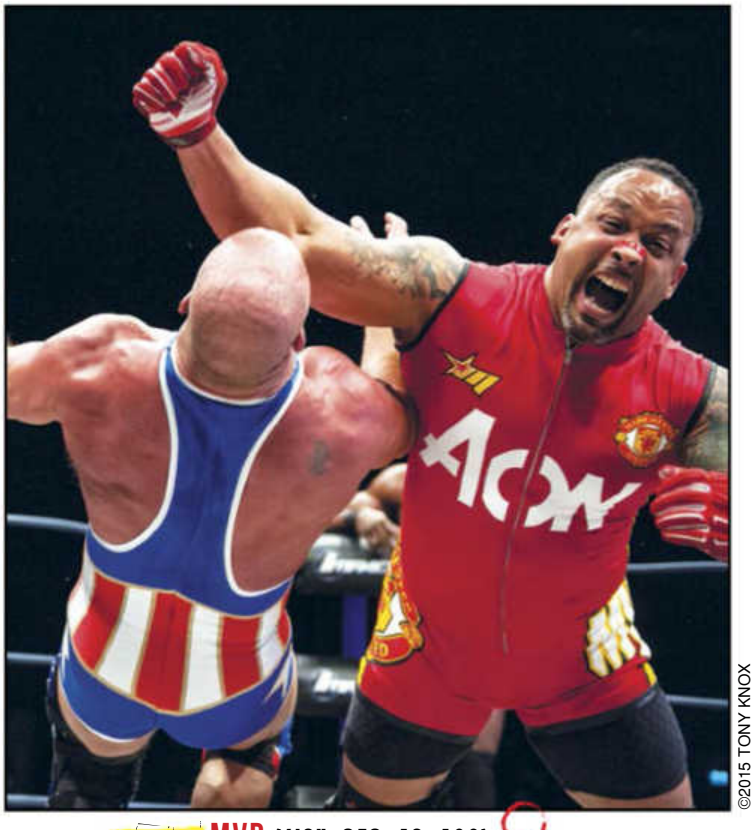
Returned from health issues to defeat Suwama in the Champion's Carnival final and win his second All-Japan Triple Crown from Go Shiozaki … Also enjoyed a six-week All-Japan tag title reign with Yutaka Yoshie … Would have ranked higher if All-Japan hadn't faded so far behind New Japan … Former sumo champion.

89 GOLDUST (6'6", 258, 27, 84)

He and Stardust turned heel against The Usos and won a second WWE tag title … They lost the belts to The Miz and Damien Mizdow … Ditched by Stardust … Underwent unspecified surgery and is expected to return in late-2015 … The grandson of a plumber must carry on the family legacy.

90 BAD LUCK FALE (6'4", 249, 5, 118)

His luck ran out against Shinsuke Nakamura, first losing to him in the G1 Climax and then dropping his IWGP I-C title to him … Upset ex-IWGP heavyweight champ Kazuchika Okada in the first round of the 2015 New Japan Cup … Lost to Okada a month later … The tough Tongan is a former rugby player.



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91 MVP (6'3", 252, 13, 100)

His thug-like tactics overshadowed his in-ring exploits again this year … The BDC emerged triumphant in its war with The Rising, but his status as TNA's top heel was eclipsed by new champ EC3 … His push for rehiring Hernandez led to a legal clash with Lucha Underground—and his own departure from TNA.

92 LANCE ARCHER (6'8", 270, 15, 112)

He and Davey Boy Smith Jr.—The Killer Elite Squad—regained the NWA tag title from Tencozy … When their Suzuki-gun faction invaded Pro Wrestling NOAH, KES won the GHC belts from Shane Haste and Mikey Nicholls … Lost to Takashi Sugiura and Masato Tanaka in the Global Tag League.

93 DAMIEN SANDOW (6'4", 243, 13, 102)

Experienced a career-turnaround as The Miz' highly entertaining "stunt double" … A tainted loss to Miz halted his momentum … Impersonating Randy Savage as "Macho Mandow," Sandow joined forces with Curtis Axel's Hulk Hogan persona … Poor Damien was a victim of creative malfeasance.

94 R-TRUTH (6'2", 220, 18, 87)

Knows how to annoy WWE's top heels, including The Miz and King Barrett, but hasn't been able to parlay that into in-ring success … Was the unlucky number-two participant in The Royal Rumble, and was eliminated by one-night-only Buh Buh Ray Dudley … Relatively successful in his feud with Stardust.

95 PENTAGON JR. (5'11", 207, 5, NL)

Joined the Los Perros del Mal faction and teamed with Joe Lider to capture the AAA tag title … One of the original five AAA wrestlers to appear in Lucha Underground … Broke several arms to please his "master" … Lured LU broadcaster Vampiro out of retirement for a grudge match … A true villain.

96 MATT TAVEN (6'2", 219, 7, 93)

Thought he and Michael Bennett had a shot at real success after they upset The Briscoe Brothers last November … They also showed signs of promise in the 2014 World Tag League, and parlayed that into a victory over Karl Anderson and Doc Gallows for the IWGP belts … Obsessed with beating reDRagon.

97 LOW-KI (5'8", 174, 17, 135)

Beat Tigre Uno, Manik, and DJ Z to win the vacant X division title in September … Lost the belt to Austin Aries in January … He and Samoa Joe turned heel and joined MVP's Beat Down Clan … Projects a convincing thug persona … After BDC finally put down The Rising, Low-Ki departed TNA.

98 SATOSHI KOJIMA (6', 250, 24, 52)

He and Hiroyoshi Tenzan dropped the NWA tag title to Lance Archer and Davey Boy Smith Jr. in October … Failed in his bid for Naomichi Marufuji's GHC championship … Unsuccessfully challenged former partner Tenzan for the NWA heavyweight belt … Ranked number three in the "500" in 2003.

99 A.R. FOX (6', 185, 8, 94)

Lost to Open the Freedom Gate champion Ricochet and Full-Impact Pro champion Rich Swann while touring China for Dragon Gate USA under the WWNLive banner… Lost another one to Open the Freedom Gate champ Johnny Gargano in March … The coming year seems make-or-break for this young star.

100 SIN CARA (5'10", 195, 16, 101)

Joined Kalisto to form The Lucha Dragons in NXT, where they defeated The Ascension for tag team gold … They lost the belts to Wesley Blake and Buddy Murphy, and were then called up to WWE as a team … Took the fight to I-C champ Bad News Barrett on the January 9 edition of *Smackdown.*

PHOTO BY SCOTT FINKELSTEIN

101 RYUSUKE TAGUCHI (5'11", 200, 13, 194)

"Funky Weapon" held the IWGP junior heavyweight championship from September 21 to January 4 … Finished second in his block in both the 2014 and 2015 Best of the Super Juniors Tournaments … Also entered 2014's Super Junior Tag Team Tournament, but he and partner Fuego lost in the first round to El Desperado and Taichi.

102 ROCKY ROMERO (5'7", 173, 18, 117)

Split from Forever Hooligans partner Alex Koslov when Koslov took a hiatus from wrestling in January 2015, but quickly joined forces with Trent Barreta as Roppongi Vice … Duo won the IWGP junior heavyweight tag team championship in April … Finished fourth in his block in 2015 NJPW Best of the Super Juniors tournament.

103 CHRIS HERO (6'4", 225, 17, 69)

Competed throughout the U.S. independent scene, winning the APW Worldwide Internet championship along the way … Also competed in Japan, placing second in his block in Pro Wrestling NOAH's 2014 Global League tournament … Faced 10 opponents and wrestled for more than three hours in the SMASH Infinity Gauntlet for ALS fundraiser in Canada on June 7.

104 TRENT BARRETA (6', 215, 11, 200)

Held the FIP championship, Dragon Gate USA's Open the United Gate championship (with Premier Athlete Brand), and the IWGP junior heavyweight tag team championship (with Rocky Romero) during evaluation period … Currently teams with Romero as Roppongi Vice in New Japan … Finished third in his block in the 2015 NJPW Best of the Super Juniors tournament.

106 KENNY KING (6', 230, 13, 99)

Charter member of MVP's Beat Down Clan in TNA … Challenged for the TNA tag title with multiple BDC members … Won the TNA X division championship from Rockstar Spud, but soon lost it back to Spud … Competed in both Lethal Lockdown and Ultimate X matches in the first half of 2015.

107 EL TERRIBLE (6'1", 230,17, 20)

Dropped the CMLL heavyweight championship to Maximo on January 30, ending a 37-month reign … Later teamed with Maximo to win CMLL's 2015 Torneo Nacional de Parejas Increibles … Had head shaved after he and Rey Bucanero lost a hair vs. hair match against Maximo and Volador Jr. on March 20.

108 JOE DOERING (6'6", 276, 10, 64)

Won All Japan Pro Wrestling's Triple Crown Championship on July 27, 2014, becoming just the sixth gaijin to do so … Successfully defended against Rhino on October 18 in Windsor, Ontario, marking the first time the title was defended outside Japan … Lost Triple Crown to Go Shiozaki on January 3.

PHOTO BY ANDREA KELLAWAY/RING OF HONOR

109 JOHNNY GARGANO (5'10", 205, 10, 62)

Dominated Dragon Gate USA and EVOLVE during evaluation period … Second reign as DGUSA Open the Freedom Gate Champion lasted 254 days, from November through March … Won the DGUSA Open the United Gate championship with Rich Swann in April and subsequently vacated and retired the title … Competed in a WWE camp in June, wrestling Uhaa Nation at an NXT taping.

110 TOMOHIRO ISHII (5'7", 220, 19, 129)

Held New Japan's NEVER Openweight championship twice during evaluation period, becoming the first two-time (and later three-time) holder of that title … Competed in NJPW G1 Climax 2014, finishing tied for fifth in his block … Teamed with Shinsuke Nakamura in the 2014 G1 World Tag League, finishing second in their block after a final-day loss.

111 ERICK ROWAN (6'8", 318, 12, 57)

Set free from Wyatt Family in late-2014 … Wrestled on John Cena's Survivor Series team and later feuded with Big Show … Briefly fired by The Authority in January … Struggled in singles competition before reuniting with former Wyatt Family partner Luke Harper in May … Suffered a torn biceps at a WWE live event in June.

112 ABYSS (6'8", 350, 14, 109)

TNA mainstay joined James Storm's Revolution, and teamed with Storm to win TNA tag team championship from The Wolves … Reign lasted four months, ending at the hands of the former champions … Also had an intense feud with Bram, culminating in a "Stairway To Janice" match at Hardcore Justice 2014.

113 ROCKSTAR SPUD (5'4", 130, 14, 180)

Former TNA chief of staff split from and feuded with Ethan Carter III, eventually losing a hair vs. hair match to EC3 … Won a Feast or Fired briefcase and twice captured the X division-title … Took "Option C" and relinquished X division title for a TNA heavyweight title match, but could not unseat Kurt Angle.

114 MATT SYDAL (5'9", 175, 15, NL)

The former Evan Bourne returned to Ring of Honor after leaving WWE last summer … Has challenged for both the ROH TV and tag team championships … Teamed with legendary Jushin "Thunder" Liger at an ROH/New Japan Global Wars event … Competed in Pro Wrestling Guerrilla's 2014 Battle of Los Angeles tournament, reaching the second round.

115 DAISUKE SEKIMOTO (5'9", 240, 16, 145)

Defeated Shuji Ishikawa on March 31 for Big Japan Wrestling's Strong heavyweight championship, becoming the first-ever two-time holder of that title … Won Block A of Pro Wrestling NOAH's 2014 Global League Tournament, but fell to Takashi Sugiura in the final … Unsuccessfully challenged Naomichi Marufuji for NOAH's GHC heavyweight championship last October.

116 MURPHY (5'11", 232, 8, NL)

Aussie star began teaming with Wesley Blake last summer, and the duo captured the NXT tag team championship from Lucha Dragons in January … Feuded mainly with Enzo Amore, Colin Cassady, and Carmella, eventually aligning with Alexa Bliss to secure a win over Amore and Cassady at NXT TakeOver: Unstoppable on May 20.

117 ANGELICO (6'3", 214, 8, NL)

Held the AAA tag team championship with Jack Evans for much of 2014 … Team's 14-month reign was ended by Los Perros del Mal on December 7… Competed in TripleMania 12's 10-way elimination match that unified AAA's Fusion and cruiserweight championships … Joined Ivelisse and Son of Havoc to become Lucha Underground's first-ever trios champions.

118 MR. ANDERSON (6'2", 243, 16, 51)

TNA stalwart saw partnership with Gunner fall apart due to Samuel Shaw … Defeated Shaw in an "I Quit" match at Hardcore Justice … Joined Rockstar Spud in his war with Ethan Carter III and Tyrus, and also feuded with Bram … Teaming with Matt Hardy and Johnny Mundo, reached the final round of AAA's Lucha Libre World Cup in May.

119 RICH SWANN (5'6", 165, 7, 133)

Competed in EVOLVE, Full Impact Pro, Dragon Gate USA, and Pro Wrestling Guerrilla … Held the FIP title from November till February before vacating due to injury, then won it a second time on April 18 … Won the DGUSA Open the United Gate championship with Johnny Gargano that same night, later retiring those titles on May 30.

120 KALISTO (5'6", 170, 9, 167)

Mexican star and partner Sin Cara ended The Ascension's record reign as NXT tag team champions at NXT TakeOver: Fatal 4-Way on September 11 … Lucha Dragons lost the title to Blake and Murphy in January and moved on to WWE … Competed in first-ever Tag Team Elimination Chamber match on May 31.

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121 BLAKE (6'1", 240, 4, NL)

Funking Conservatory grad teamed with Murphy to win NXT tag team championship from Lucha Dragons in January … Took on all comers before harassment of Carmella led to a feud with Enzo Amore and Colin Cassady … Later aligned with Alexa Bliss, who helped Blake and Murphy defeat Amore and Cassady at NXT TakeOver: Unstoppable.

122 REY BUCANERO (5'10", 207, 14, NL)

Defeated La Sombra in March 8 tournament final to win the NW Historic light heavyweight championship … Teamed with Volador Jr. to reach finals of CMLL's 2015 Torneo Nacional de Parejas Increibles … Had head shaved after he and El Terrible lost a hair vs. hair match to Maximo and Volador Jr. on March 20.

123 KATSUYORI SHIBATA (6', 209, 16, NL)

Finished fourth in his block in New Japan Pro Wrestling's 2014 G1 Climax … Teamed with Hirooki Goto to win 2014 NJPW World Tag League, defeating Doc Gallows and Karl Anderson in December 7 final … Duo again defeated Gallows and Anderson on January 5 to win the IWGP tag team championship.

124 BRAM (6'3", 216, 12, 143)

TNA mainstay proclaimed himself the "New King Of Hardcore" in late-2014, feuding with Abyss, Jeff Hardy, and ECW Originals Tommy Dreamer and Devon … Team with Magnus dissolved after he attacked the fellow Briton after January's Feast or Fired match … Reached the finals of TNA's One Night Only Tournament in February.

125 DRAGO (5'9", 174, 17, NL)

Competed in 10-way elimination match to merge AAA's cruiserweight and Fusion championships at TripleMania 22 last August … Joined Lucha Underground, feuding with King Cuerno and Aero Star … Was banished from Lucha Underground after losing to champion Prince Puma, but won a 3-on-1 mask vs. career match in June to earn his way back.

126 PJ BLACK (6'1", 213, 18, 136)

The former Justin Gabriel left WWE in January after wrestling mostly on live events and WWE Network programming … Highest-profile WWE match during the evaluation period came in a loss to Fandango on Survivor Series pre-show … Had a brief stint in NXT as well … Went on to compete for EVOLVE, Pro Wrestling Syndicate, and Global Force Wrestling.

127 MATT CROSS (5'7", 177, 14, 88)

Garnered great national exposure as Lucha Underground's Son of Havoc … Co-held the promotion's Trios title with Ivelisse and Angelico, after the team won a tournament … Continued competing on the independent circuit, where he had a run with the Smash Wrestling championship.

128 TOGI MAKABE (5'11", 242, 18, 186)

Seasoned brawler reestablished himself by defeating Tomohiro Ishii for the NEVER Openweight championship at Wrestle Kingdom 9 … Was briefly stripped of the title due to illness … Regained the belt from Ishii in a rematch in April and has held it since.

129 BULLY RAY (6'4", 326, 24, 10)

Ranking suffered this year due to inactivity … He and Devon left TNA early in the evaluation period but still teamed on the indies … Appeared in the 2015 Royal Rumble … Returned to TNA in June and was named its new GM.

130 MARK HENRY (6'4", 378, 19, 71)

A topsy-turvy year for the veteran powerhouse … Battled injuries and struggled in feuds with Rusev and Bo Dallas … He did fare slightly better at house shows than televised events … Teamed with Big Show last summer to some success.

131 MYZTEZIZ (5'7", 180, 17, 101)

Previously WWE's Sin Cara, Myzteziz has returned to regular competition in his native Mexico … Competed primarily with AAA, where he found a reliable tag partner in Fenix … Won the 2014 Copa Antonio Peña after emerging victorious in a royal rumble lumberjack match.

132 DREW GULAK (5'11", 215, 10, 89)

Still a very active and notable presence on the independent circuit … Remained a top contender in CZW, challenging for its heavyweight championship on multiple occasions … Competed in PWG's 2014 Battle of Los Angeles tournament … Also appeared for EVOLVE and CHIKARA.

PHOTO BY JERRY VILLAGRANA

133 TOMMASO CIAMPA (5'11", 210, 10, 67)

Parted ways with Ring of Honor earlier this year, following an injury that sidelined him briefly … Made a play for the ROH championship last summer, but his challenge against Michael Elgin was unsuccessful … Remains active in various indy promotions nationwide.

134 GUNNER (6'2", 244, 14, 40)

2015 marked the end of Gunner's five years with TNA … Formed a short-lived team with Samuel Shaw … The two quickly became rivals, and Gunner eventually got the upper hand … Won the 2015 TNA Classic tournament, defeating Bram in the finals.

135 CHRIS SABIN (5'10", 205, 14, 43)

Kept busy over the past year with myriad independent and U.K. bookings … Made a long-awaited return to Ring of Honor in April … Defeated Kyle O'Reilly in a singles match … Has been named a part of the Global Force Wrestling roster.

136 SANADA (6', 216, 8, 66)

Found new niche as a protege of James Storm … Began mimicking The Great Muta, but failed to upset the veteran in several matches … Left TNA this spring … Made it to the finals of last year's Rey de Voladores tournament in CHIKARA.

137 JACK SWAGGER (6'7", 260, 9, 74)

All-American grappler struggled more this year than he has in quite some time … Had a long, very heated rivalry with Rusev, but was unable to defeat him … Fared significantly better at untelevised events, where he has regularly picked up singles wins.

138 YUJI NAGATA (6', 238, 23, 83)

Since losing NOAH's GHC heavyweight title early last July, championships have eluded him … Nonetheless, he's remained an active competitor for both NOAH and New Japan … Earned singles wins over Davey Boy Smith Jr. and Shelton Benjamin during the evalution period.

139 LUKE HAWX (6'1", 202, 16, 139)

Veteran of the indy scene has signed with Global Force Wrestling … Faced Luke Gallows on GFW's first tour … Appeared for many independent promotions after wrapping up a long-running feud with Matt Hardy … Defeated Bob Holly and Papadon in singles matches.

140 JAX DANE (6'4", 284, 5, 176)

A bittersweet year for Dane … Won the NWA National heavyweight and North American heavyweight titles within months, unifying the two championships … Later had to vacate following an injury … With partner Rob Conway, competed in tag matches for New Japan.

141 MASATO YOSHINO (5'8", 165, 15, NL)

Dragon Gate star excelled in singles and tag competition … Co-held the Open the Twin Gate tag title for three months … Defeated BxB Hulk for the Open the Dream Gate title in June … Also won the 2015 King of Gate tournament.

142 CURTIS AXEL (6'3", 228, 8, 92)

Has seemingly struck gold with his "Axelmania" persona and subsequent teaming up with Damien Sandow as The Meta Powers … They have been very successful at recent house shows against middling teams… Did suffer a string of singles losses, but appears to have recovered.

143 ALEX SHELLEY (5'9", 198, 13, 110)

One-half of New Japan's celebrated Time Splitters, he co-held the IWGP Junior heavyweight tag title with KUSHIDA … Competed mostly in Japan but did have a reign with the Smash Wrestling (Toronto) championship as well … Sidelined by a foot injury in May.

144 VOLADOR JR. (5'9", 191, 16, 147)

CMLL mainstay currently holds both the NWA Historic middleweight championship and UIPW heavyweight championship … Is also a co-holder of CMLL's Trios championship, along with Mistico and Valiente … Competed in a tour of New Japan, while keeping active in his native Mexico.

145 RHINO (6'1", 275, 20, 115)

He's had quite a diverse portfolio lately … Wrestled for TNA, ROH, and WWE during the evaluation period … Most recently, he's been a top name on weekly NXT shows, feuding notably with Finn Balor … Held multiple titles on the independent circuit.

146 BLUE DEMON JR. (5'10", 198, 31, 155)

Lucha legend remains competitive in both U.S. and Mexico … Has competed mostly for AAA, but he was also featured on some of Lucha Underground's earliest shows … Still holds the Pro Wrestling Revolution title, although he hasn't defended it recently.

147 MANIK (5'10", 178, 16, 122)

High-flyer continues to be prominent in TNA and on the independent circuit … Became a member of The Revolution faction … Was regularly a top contender in the X division, although he could not win the title … Has also appeared for EVOLVE and PWG.

148 VIKTOR (6'1", 217, 14, 128)

The slightly more agile member of The Ascension sees a lower rank this year, despite moving from NXT to the main roster … The team was impressive early on, with a victory over The New Age Outlaws, but they've underperformed since being brought up.

149 ROBBIE E (5'11", 201, 15, 85)

Tag stalwart split with his partner Jessie Godderz, dissolving a two-year partnership … Defeated Godderz in a singles match at Slammiversary 13 … Suffered some tough losses earlier in the evaluation period but now appears refocused … Could have a strong 2016.

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150 JUN AKIYAMA (6'2", 242, 23, 90)

Sitting All Japan president wore the All Japan Pro Wrestling tag title twice during the evaluation period with partner Takao Omori … Their second reign began in December after defeating Go Shiozaki and Kento Miyahara … They would lose the title in May.

151 KONNOR (6'4", 257, 14, 123)

Boston native is The Ascension's powerhouse … He and partner Viktor made a memorable *Raw* debut late last year and were heavily featured for a time … They've been struggling recently but did eliminate two teams in the tag title match at Elimination Chamber.

152 CRAZZY STEVE (5'10", 220, 12, 132)

Had a better year than last year in some ways, although he suffered his share of losses and kept a generally lower profile ... Competed more prominently in singles matches this year … Scored wins over Rockstar Spud, Robbie E, and Jessie Godderz.

153 T-HAWK (5'9", 190, 5, 203)

Upwardly mobile wrestler is a member of Dragon Gate's Millennials faction … Co-held the Open the Twin Gate championship twice during the evalution period … Performed well in the 2015 King of Gate tournament, before finally falling to Masato Yoshino in the finals.

154 MOOSE (6'5", 295, 1, NL)

Former NFL offensive tackle has made a successful transition into wrestling …

PHOTO BY STU SAKS

Dominated in ROH singles competition until finally losing to Cedric Alexander in May … Has also competed for Dragon Gate and AAA and other indies … Holds the PWX Innovative TV championship.

155 LA SOMBRA (5'11", 176, 12, 119)

The NWA Historic middleweight champion since early-2013, he also wore the NWA Historic welterweight championship early in the evalution period … Won 2015 CMLL Reyes del Aire tournament … Featured in NJPW's Fantasticamania 2015, defeating Mascara Dorada on the event's final night.

156 BO DALLAS (6'1", 224, 7, 73)

His ranking fell this year due to missing four months of action … Began the evalution period with a short undefeated streak … Enjoyed singles victories over Mark Henry and Jack Swagger … Possesses a gift for exploiting opponents entangled in other feuds.

157 COLT CABANA (6'1", 233, 16, 140)

Grappling renaissance man continues to compete while pursuing interests outside wrestling … He and Chris Hero were a formidable team in Pro Wrestling NOAH … Briefly held the ICW tag title with Grado ... Was the subject of a February *Rolling Stone* story.

158 SUSHI (6', 233, 17, 342)

Although a veteran of All Japan, he's injected new life into his career with current masked persona … This June, he defeated KENSO for the GAORA TV championship, a title which he previously won in 2013 … Has teamed regularly with Akebono.

159 ANGEL DE ORO (5'10", 182, 10, NL)

Returned to the ring in June 2014 after being sidelined by a major injury for six months … CMLL's reigning light heavyweight champ since defeating Rey Escorpion last fall … Has successfully defended the title in Mexico and Japan.

160 DIEGO (5'10", 215, 16, 162)

One-half of Los Matadores, who remained viable contenders to the WWE tag title throughout the evalution period … Had some success as a singles competitor while his partner, Fernando, was injured last year, defeating Fandango with regularity.

161 FERNANDO (6', 217, 10, 164)

The elder member of Los Matadores made a strong showing after returning to action last summer … He and Diego unsuccessfully challenged for the WWE tag team championship at both WrestleMania and Elimination Chamber … The team continues to be a presence on WWE TV.

162 FENIX (5'9", 163, 10, 159)

AAA mainstay has gained U.S. notoriety through his appearances for Lucha Underground … Won the promotion's Gift of the Gods championship by defeating six other competitors, guaranteeing him a future shot at Lucha Underground's top title … Defeated Mil Muertes in a casket match.

163 TOMMY END (5'11", 211, 13, NL)

Dutch grappler has earned a strong reputation in both Europe and North America … Co-holder of PROGRESS Wrestling's tag title … Reached the semifinals of CZW's 2015 Best of the Best tournament … Has also recently competed for EVOLVE and Pro Wrestling Guerrilla.

164 JESSIE GODDERZ (5'10", 220, 5, 105)

Has been working to regain his footing following the dissolution of The BroMans … Struggled in singles matches against former partner Robbie E and others … The two did have a strong run as a team early in the evaluation period.

165 ZACK SABRE JR. (6', 185, 11, 310)

British-born former GHC junior heavyweight tag champ is still a fixture in Pro Wrestling NOAH … Has made notable appearances for EVOLVE, CZW, and PROGRESS Wrestling … Defeated Adam Cole in the opening round of last year's PWG Battle of Los Angeles.

166 AERO STAR (5'7", 150, 12, NL)

Popular addition to the Lucha Underground roster, where he competed in a popular best-of-five series with Drago … Reached the finals of AAA's 2015 Rey de Reyes tournament … Defeated Super Fly in a mask vs. mask match in December.

167 YAMATO (5'8", 180, 9, 121)

Member of Dragon Gate's MAD BLANKEY … Began the evaluation period as Open the Dream Gate champion before losing the belt to BxB Hulk … Held the Open the Twin Gate title on two occasions, once with Cyber Kong and currently with Naruki Doi.

168 ZACK RYDER (6'2", 214, 11, 153)

Still makes occasional appearances on *Raw* and *Smackdown,* but has a better win-loss record at house shows … Seems to have found a kindred spirit in Mojo Rawley … The two have been teaming up as The Hype Bros. at NXT events.

169 MEPHISTO (5'9", 198, 27, 111)

Has held the Mexican National light heavyweight championship almost two years … Made it to the finals of the 2014 La Copa Junior VIP tournament before losing to Maximo … Joined Bullet Club at Fantasticamania 2015.

170 DR. WAGNER JR. (5'10", 216, 29, 263)

Almost three decades into his career, the veteran luchador continues to be very active in Mexico … Successfully defended the IWL heavyweight title against LA Par-K and Ultimo Guerrero … Also captured the LyC tag team championship with his brother Silver Cain.

PHOTO BY SCOTT FINKELSTEIN

171 TITUS O'NEIL (6'3", 268, 6, 230)

One-half of the Prime Time Players with Darren Young … They captured the WWE tag title from The New Day in June … Previously, O'Neil had been teaming with Heath Slater … Picked up a singles win over Sami Zayn on an October 2014 episode of *NXT.*

PHOTO BY LEE SOUTH/TNA WRESTLING

172 B.J. WHITMER (6'1", 230, 15, 160)

Still the head of Ring of Honor's The Decade faction and a mainstay on the midwestern independent circuit … Co-held the AIW tag title with his ROH ally Jimmy Jacobs for 264 days … Defeated Jacobs in his final match in ROH.

173 MASADA (6', 229, 13, 134)

He's been spending most of his time in Texas' Anarchy Championship Wrestling, whose heavyweight championship he held for almost six months … Won ACW's 9th Annual Lone Star Classic tournament, defeating Barrett Brown in the finals … Also competed for IWA Mid-South and BJW.

174 REY ESCORPION (5'9", 202, 16, 97)

Head of CMLL's Los Revolucionarios del Terror faction … Lost the CMLL light heavyweight title to Angel de Oro last fall after holding it for nearly two years … Reached the finals of the 2014 Copa CMLL tournament with El Terrible.

175 DARREN YOUNG (6'1", 239, 13, 241)

After being out of commission for nearly nine months, Young returned to action this January … Soon after, he reformed The Prime Time Players with Titus O'Neil … The team would go on to win its first WWE tag title, from The New Day's Big E and Xavier Woods, at MITB in June.

176 NARUKI DOI (5'8", 180, 15, 154)

Continues to achieve in Dragon Gate with his MAD BLANKEY allies … Recently captured the Open the Twin Gate title for a sixth time, the second with partner YAMATO … Also co-held the Open the Triangle Gate title with Kzy and Cyber Kong.

177 BIG RYCK (6'3", 316, 8, NL)

Former Ezekiel Jackson has found a home in Lucha Underground as an ally of Shawn Daivari … Failed in past-year attempts to win the company's heavyweight and trios titles … Membership in The Crenshaw Crew turned sour in January '15 … Also competed briefly in TNA as Rycklon.

178 KOTARO SUZUKI (5'8", 183, 14, NL)

All Japan star won the Junior Battle of Glory tournament and the junior heavyweight championship early in 2015, both times pinning Atsushi Aoki … Also held the All Asia tag title, alongside Kento Miyahara, during the evaluation period, having beaten Keisuke Ishii and Shigehiro Irie for the honors.

179 MAHABALI SHERA (6'2", 265, 4, NL)

Former Khoya once ran with James Storm in TNA's Revolution stable, but now stands alone … Last Ring Ka King champion defeated then-teammates Abyss and Manik in a triple-threat match on *Impact* in April … Failed to win the TNA tag title, alongside Storm, at Destination X.

180 TIGRE UNO (5'3", 148, 16, 172)

Former AAA star won his first TNA X title in June 2015, defeating Low-Ki and Grado in a three-way match … This win was preceded by nearly a year of unsuccessful title opportunities … Won the Global Impact Tournament as part of TNA's International team, despite losing to Davey Richards.

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181 HIDEKI SUZUKI (6'3", 243, 7, NL)

Highly sought-after Japanese free agent left the Inoki Genome Federation in 2014 … Beat Tama Williams for the NWA United National heavyweight belt last August … Further bolstered his resume with a Wrestle-1 championship at the expense of KAI several months later.

182 JEFF JARRETT (6', 235, 29, 227)

Legendary TNA, WCW, AAA, and WWE star has spent less time in the ring in recent years, instead focusing on promoting his Global Force Wrestling promotion … Surprised many when he returned to TNA in June 2015 to win the King of the Mountain match at Slammiversary.

183 FANDANGO (6'4", 244, 16, 142)

Despite early success, Fandango has all but shuffled out of the WWE limelight … Engaged in a frustrating feud with Adam Rose in 2014 that only left him hungry for a win … Enlisted three valets—Summer Rae, Layla, and Rosa Mendes—before deciding to tango solo.

184 SHANE HASTE (6'1", 220, 12, 315)

Popular Australian star made his mark in Japan's NOAH … Briefly regained the GHC tag title with longtime partner Mikey Nicholls in early-2015, only to lose to Davey Boy Smith Jr. and Lance Archer … Debuted for New Japan at Wrestle Kingdom 9 as one of Toru Yano's partners.

185 MIKEY NICHOLLS (6'1", 227, 14, 325)

Experienced competitor who has wrestled for the NWA, Ring of Honor, Pro Wrestling Guerrilla, Ohio Valley Wrestling, NOAH, and New Japan … With the latter promotion, debuted at Wrestle Kingdom 9, winning an eight-man tag match alongside partner Shane Haste … Hails from Perth, Australia.

186 KAI (5'9", 192, 8, NL)

Former AJPW star is a two-time Wrestle-1 champion … After several failed bids to win the title in 2014, made the bold move to remove himself from competition to revamp his approach … This strategy ultimately paid dividends with big Wrestle-1 title wins over Keiji Muto (November) and Hideki Suzuki (April).

187 ADAM ROSE (6'1", 218, 20, 144)

Raw's resident partier's once-"budding" career has gone sour since being outshined in his feud with The Bunny in 2014 … This, coupled with several high-profile losses, has made Rose very short-tempered … Took on Rosa Mendes as his valet, but is seemingly no closer to advancing his career.

188 MICAH (6'2", 230, 7, NL)

Second-generation competitor, the son of Haku/Meng, has been reborn in TNA … Disappointing WWE run as Camacho led to his release just prior to the start of the evaluation period … Debuted with TNA in April as a member of Drew Galloway's The Rising stable.

189 HEATH SLATER (6'2", 216, 11, 177)

Former Slater Gator tag wrestler found himself a "One Man Band" when Titus O'Neil rekindled his popular partnership with Darren Young in February 2015 … Immediately set out to win the U.S. title from John Cena, but has been derailed on several occasions … Still struggling for a major singles win.

190 ADAM PAGE (5'11", 200, 7, 311)

Former ROH prospect best known for his Rite of Passage swinging fisherman's suplex … Joined The Decade after months of feuding with the group, supplanting Roderick Strong in his longtime alliance with B.J. Whitmer … Immediately targeted Strong, fellow up-and-comer ACH, and former WWE star Matt Sydal.

191 **DJ Z (5'8", 170, 11, 127)**
Former Zema Ion in TNA was once known for his breathtaking top-rope 450 splash and 620 senton … Now more remembered for spinning his tracks for the ill-fated BroMans team … Has struggled in competition since that group's breakup, including noteworthy losses to Tigre Uno and former partner Jessie Godderz.

192 **MOJO RAWLEY (6'4", 272, 2, 170)**
This energetic WWE NXT personality has spent much of the evaluation period on injured reserve after sustaining a shoulder injury against Tyler Breeze … Teamed with Bull Dempsey at NXT TakeOver: Fatal 4-Way in September 2014 in an unsuccessful attempt at the NXT tag title.

193 **LA PARK (6'1", 221, 33, 284)**
Once known as La Parka in WCW and throughout Mexico, LA Park is still going strong after more than 30 years … Made his return to CMLL late last year with an open challenge to the locker room … Also known for his affiliation with Mexican independent company Liga Elite.

194 **KENTO MIYAHARA (6'1", 225, 7, NL)**
Promising member of AJPW's Xceed stable … Wrestles primarily as a tag competitor, although he did challenge twice for the Triple Crown title in 2015, losing to partner Go Shiozaki and Akebono … Captured the All Asia and All Japan tag titles with Kotaro and Go Shiozaki, respectively … Pinned legend Suwama in June.

195 **KAHAGAS (5'11", 205, 15, 190)**
Former NWA champion continues to slide since losing the title to Rob Conway over two years ago …. Still competes for the NWA and various independents … Beat former WWE wrestler Mason Ryan and took TNA star Bram to a no-contest in 2014 … Has been relatively quiet since that time.

196 **ELI DRAKE (6'2", 229, 12, NL)**
Jumped to TNA after getting released by WWE … Immediately joined The Rising, which was subsequently forced to disband after a loss to MVP's Beat Down Clan … Later betrayed former partner Drew Galloway, costing him a TNA title match against Ethan Carter III.

197 **UHAA NATION (6'1", 260, 6, 208)**
Freakishly agile powerhouse is touted by WWE as one of the company's brightest prospects … Former Dragon Gate USA and EVOLVE star debuted on NXT in May '15, actually signing his contract during an in-ring segment … Prior to this, challenged BxB Hulk in an unsuccessful bid for the Open the Dream Gate title.

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198 **CHAVO GUERRERO JR. (6', 239, 21, 201)**
After years in WCW, WWE, and TNA, found a new home in Lucha Underground … Wrestled the promotion's first match in October 2014, a loss to Blue Demon … After failing to win the Lucha Underground title three months later, abruptly left the company, only to return aligned with The Crew.

199 **PAPADON (6', 233, 16, 202)**
NYWC and former ECWA standout, "Greek God" is still regarded as one of the best bell-to-bell wrestlers in the world … Competes regularly for dozens of promotions, including CZW … Won the Five Borough Wrestling title from longtime rival Anthony Nese in December … Occasionally teams with Nese as "Premiere Gods."

200 **TIM STORM (6'3", 260, 15, 316)**
Two-time NWA North American champion lost his belt in a title unification match with NWA National champion Jax Dane in April … Had held that title since beating Thomas Shire in Texas six months earlier … Also lost the NWA Texoma tag title, which he held alongside Apocalypse.

201 HARASHIMA (5'10", 190, 14, 168)

Competes for Japan's DDT, where he lost the Ko-D championship—then won and lost it again—in 2015 … Saw Kota Ibushi end his 266-day reign in February … Three months later, defeated Kazusada for the honors in a thrilling match, only to be beaten one week later by KUDO.

202 REY HORUS (5'9", 165, 8, NL)

Former El Hijo de Rey Misterio started making inroads in the U.S. through EVOLVE and other independent promotions … Highest profile U.S. appearance was WrestleMania weekend in San Jose, California, in the King of the Indies tournament, where he defeated Lil Cholo but lost to Willie Mack in the quarterfinals.

203 RAYMOND ROWE (5'10", 240, 12, 308)

ROH competitor best known for his War Machine partnership with Hanson … Career momentum stalled when an August 2014 motorcycle accident sidelined him for seven months … Continues to be a top contender for both ROH's TV and tag title … Also competes in various independent promotions.

204 BIFF BUSICK (6'1", 215, 8, 157)

Former CZW heavyweight champion continues to draw attention wherever he competes in North America … Headed out west to PWG in 2014 to compete in the Battle of Los Angeles tournament, where he lost to Roderick Strong … Also competes for EVOLVE and CZW.

205 EL SENSACIONAL CARLITOS (5'9", 161, 17, NL)

Puerto Rican veteran of WWC is not part of the famous Colon family … Jumped to Mexico's AAA in 2014 to team with Tommy Diablo and challenge for the promotion's tag title … Now competes for World Wrestling League and is a top challenger for the Las Americas title.

206 COLIN CASSADY (7', 260, 5, 281)

Johnny Rodz trainee best known as the NXT tag partner of Enzo Amore, with manager Carmella … Perennial top contender for the tag title throughout 2015, but has yet to bring the belt home … Resident big man and veteran of WWE's developmental system, having signed with WWE in 2011.

207 CHRIS MELENDEZ (6'3", 232, 1, NL)

One-legged competitor has shown much heart during his first year wrestling … Despite suffering tragic injuries during a 2006 U.S. Army tour of Iraq, left his New York City home to train at the Team 3-D Academy in Florida … This paid dividends with a TNA contract … Embroiled in feuds with Kenny King and MVP.

208 THE ROMANTIC TOUCH (6'2", 203, 9, 173)

Masked man of mystery brings a talented big-guy presence to ROH that hasn't been seen since Rhett Titus … Fell out of TV title contention after a loss to Jay Lethal early in the evaluation period … Lost to Cheeseburger in a four-corner match at Best in the World.

209 CAPRICE COLEMAN (5'10", 213, 19, 188)

Well-respected member of the ROH roster who actually got his start in the 1990s with Matt and Jeff Hardy's OMEGA promotion … Frequent tag team partner of Cedric Alexander, as C&C Wrestle Factory … Has yet to taste gold in the company despite coming close to winning the TV title last year.

210 BESTIA 666 (5'9", 209, 6, NL)

Reigning WildKat Revolution champion has held the title nearly 300 days since winning it last November … Competes throughout the southern U.S. and Mexico … Often the tag partner of Damien 666, who trained him … Unsuccessfully challenged Juventud Guerrera in a Pro Wrestling Revolution junior heavyweight title match in June.

PHOTO BY STU SAKS

211 TAKASHI SUGIURA (5'10", 229, 14, 165)

Pro Wrestling NOAH competitor and mixed martial artist frequently teams with Masato Tanaka of ECW fame … Together as the Dangan Yankies, held both the NWA Intercontinental and GHC tag titles for 397 days and 224, respectively, but lost both during the first half of 2015.

212 MISTICO (5'7", 180, 17, 101)

Former WWE high-flyer now wrestles closer to home in AAA … Lost to El Hijo del Perro Aguayo by pinfall at TripleMania 22 … Added an AAA Lucha Libre World Cup tournament win to his resume, alongside fellow WWE alumni Alberto El Patron and Rey Mysterio Jr.

213 MANDREWS (6', 201, 9, NL)

Signed to TNA after winning British Boot Camp … Immediately aligned with fellow Boot Camp winner Rockstar Spud during a brawl with Ethan Carter III and Tyrus … Also competed in CHIKARA King of Trios 2014, winning his first-round match as a member of "Team U.K." with Damian and Pete Dunne.

214 TYRUS (6'7", 375, 9, 217)

Former Brodus Clay danced out of WWE in 2014, only to land on his feet in TNA by September … Partnered with Ethan Carter … Also teamed with ECIII to defeat Mr. Anderson and Lashley at Slammiversary 2015.

215 SILAS YOUNG (5'11", 209, 13, 206)

Beat ROH champion Kevin Owens in a no-DQ match on the Summer Heat tour in July 2014 … Soon thereafter, suffered a broken leg that kept him out of action for seven months … Returned in March to earn a title match with new champion Jay Briscoe, but fell short.

216 DONOVAN DIJAK (6'7", 270, 2, NL)

Earned the honor of Ring of Honor's Top Prospect after defeating Will Ferrara to win that tournament … Turned down an ROH title opportunity with Jay Briscoe to align with Truth Martini's House of Truth in March … Also a former champion for New England's Chaotic Wrestling.

217 RICKY REYES (5'9", 192, 11, 229)

Independent journeyman has competed in dozens of promotions in addition to spending time in WWE, TNA, and Ring of Honor … Currently on the roster for Lucha Underground as Cortez Castro, where he most-often teams with Bael and Mr. Cisco as The Crew.

218 MASATO TANAKA (5'11", 209, 22, 141)

Veteran NOAH and ZERO1 competitor still best known in the U.S. for his short run as ECW champion … Has largely given up singles competition in favor of tag matches with Takashi Sugiura, with whom he has held the NWA Intercontinental and GHC tag titles.

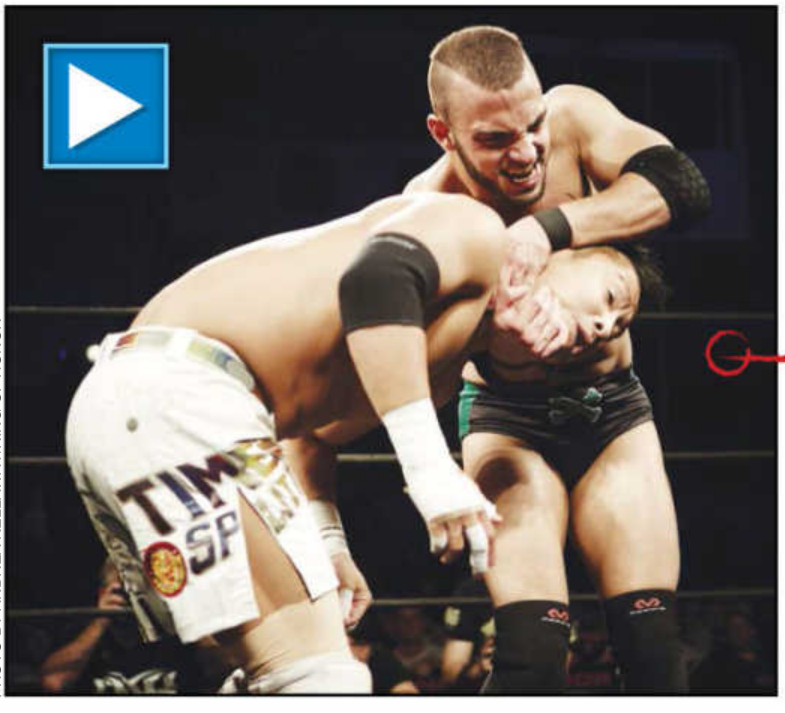

PHOTO BY ANDREA KELLAWAY/RING OF HONOR

219 CHICANO (6', 220, 15, NL)

Puerto Rican standout won the WWC Puerto Rico title from Gilbert in December 2014 and Ricardo Rodriguez in February 2015 … Also captured the WWC Universal championship from Carlito Colon in April … Looked strong in defenses against Jesus De Leon and Mighty Ursus.

220 WILL FERRARA (5'9", 178, 4, NL)

Despite tremendous upside, the 24-year-old is struggling to pick up wins against ROH's top talent … Lost to Donovan Dijak in the finals of the 2015 Top Prospect tournament … Won a four-corner match against Cheeseburger, Beer City Bruiser, and Romantic Touch on ROH's Conquest Tour.

221 DALTON CASTLE (6', 211, 7, 482)

Cagey Ring of Honor competitor uses his feathered "Boys" as a distraction at ringside … Despite this sideshow, he actually possesses a strong arsenal of moves, led by his extremely difficult Deadlift German Suplex … Over the past year, made appearances for TNA's One Night Only Gut Check, CHIKARA, and New Japan.

222 CHASE OWENS (6'2", 205, 8, 347)

Three-time former NWA junior heavyweight champion has only enhanced his career with strong matches against AJ Styles and Jushin Thunder Liger … Lost the belt to Liger last November … Also competed in New Japan's 2015 Best of the Super Juniors tournament, going 4-3.

223 JOEY RYAN (5'10", 210, 15, 261)

Based on the West Coast, this independent star traveled farther than ever, accepting a match with Australia's Matt Basso for Outback Championship Wrestling … Predictably blamed his loss on jet lag … He and Candice LeRae lost the Pro Wrestling Guerrilla tag title to Ethan Page and Josh Alexander in May.

224 STEVE ANTHONY (5'10", 210, 12, 293)

Picked up a big win over Jushin Liger for the NWA junior heavyweight title in an April 2015 match in Las Vegas … More impressively, won the rematch on Liger's home turf … Also held the NWA Lone Star title for two months in 2014.

225 SHUJI ISHIKAWA (6'5", 264, 12, NL)

Japanese tag team wrestler most often competes in Big Japan and DDT … Currently sits as a two-time Big Japan tag champion with Kohei Sato … Also captured the Big Japan Strong championship, beating Ryuichi Kawakami last December.

226 ENZO AMORE (5'11", 200, 3, 268)

Gifted on the mic, "Jersey's Finest" does his best work in the ring alongside Colin Cassady … Scored a big wih over The Lucha Dragons in February in which Enzo pinned Kalisto to earn a title match with NXT tag champs Blake and Murphy … Came close to getting the belts, but lost due to interference by manager Alexa Bliss.

227 MATT RIVIERA (6'2", 228, 11, 299)

A pillar of NWA's shadowy coterie known as The Empire, Riviera grabbed that promotion's Western States title in January, defeating Brian Kendrick in a tournament final … Defended the belt against Americos and Chris Masters … Dropped his strap to Jeff Jarrett in May 2015, but regained the gold just 48 hours later … Regularly teams with Empire crony Greg Anthony.

228 KEIJI MUTO (6'2", 242, 30, NL)

As The Great Muta, feuded with Sanada in TNA, ultimately beating his former pupil to cap their rivalry … Defeated in a huge upset by Masayuki Kono later the same year, but landed sweet revenge when he bested Kono to win the Wrestle-1 championship … In November 2014, celebrated his 30th year in the sport.

229 CHRIS SILVIO (5'7", 154, 14, NL)

Undersized but technically proficient OVW star won his second TV title from Michael Hayes last August and went on to capture his first OVW heavyweight title, from Eddie Diamond, after the evaluation period … "The Psychedelic Superstar" finds just the right moments to use his Red Carpet clutch and running tornado DDT.

230 JUSHIN LIGER (5'7", 202, 31, 244)

The NJPW stalwart won the NWA's junior heavyweight title from Chase Owens at a show in Osaka in late-2014, holding on to the strap well into 2015 … Made forays into Ring of Honor, joining forces with Mark Briscoe and Matt Sydal in separate tag endeavors … Has appeared in each of the 25 "*PWI* 500s."

PHOTO BY SCOTT FINKELSTEIN

231 JASON KINCAID (6', 199, 12, 357)

"The Gift" recently marked three years as NWA's Southeastern champion … Beat Kai Katana, Jaxson James, and Corey Hollis to win ECWA's 2015 Super 8 tournament … Defeated John Morrison, Steve Anthony, Chase Owens, and Christopher Daniels during the evaluation period.

232 PEPPER PARKS (6', 220, 16, 249)

Found a bit of success in CZW partnering with Papadon, as the duo defeated The Beaver Boys as well as Nation of Intoxication … Worked matches for TNA's One Night Only, losing in separate contests against Kenny King and Drew Galloway.

233 GEDO (5'8", 189, 26, 146)

Teaming with Kazuchika Okada, Gedo squared off against members of The Bullet Club time and again, often coming out on top … Partnered with Moose during the ROH/NJPW War of the Worlds event, putting the kibosh on Silas Young and Takaaki Watanabe … Competed in Best of the Super Juniors, finishing near the bottom of his block.

234 FAÇADE (6', 187, 8, 269)

Garnered impressive wins over Matt Sydal and Tommaso Ciampa during the evaluation period … Also squared off against ECW original Sabu twice in early-2015 but couldn't get the pinfall either time … Won the VOW (Pennsylvania) Hyper Sonic title in May and defeated longtime rival Gory in June.

235 MR. 450 (5'9", 210, 11, 260)

Made brief appearances in NXT and TNA … Captured the NWA FUW Flash title in September … Picked up the IWC Pure X title in June 2015 with a win over Craig Classic … A regular visitor to Puerto Rico, Mr. 450 is a rising star in WWC.

236 KOHEI SATO (6'4", 264, 14, 156)

With partner Shuji Ishikawa, has retained the BJW tag straps for over a year … Won the ZERO1 heavyweight title for the fourth time in September 2014 with a victory over old foil Masakatsu Funaki … Won the NWA Intercontinental tag title with Daisuke Sekimoto in June.

237 ASHLEY SIXX (5'10", 193, 13, 456)

Still going strong after a harrowing bout with Hodgkin's lymphoma, "The Alternative" gained national exposure with a first-round win over Dalton Castle in Ring of Honor's 2015 Top Prospects tournament … Also won the King of Toronto 2014 Gauntlet and defeated Brent Banks for Superkick'd's top title in April.

238 CIMA (5'9", 180, 18, 161)

A mainstay in Japan's Dragon Gate, CIMA found himself part of the promotion's Mad Blankey faction in late-2014, mixing it up with teams including Jimmyz and The Millennials … After parting company with Mad Blankey, captured the Triangle Gate title with Don Fuji and Gamma in June.

PHOTO BY SCOTT FINKELSTEIN

239 TYSON DUX (5'11", 198, 18, 253)

Tried a few times to capture gold in AIW during the evaluation period, coming up short in his efforts … Logged victories over Johnny Gargano and Rhino while competing on his home turf in Canada … Defeated PWE (Ontario) champ Will White by DQ in June.

240 JADO (5'10", 218, 26, 150)

In addition to partnering with Gedo and Takahashi in NJPW, the veteran also competes as Captain NOAH in Pro Wrestling NOAH, often drawing laughs for his comedic misadventures … Defeated a host of competitors at a Royal Rumble-style match in early- 2015 … As Captain NOAH, logged tag victories over teams including Brave and High Level Enterprise.

241 HANSON (6'1", 264, 13, 290)

Intimidating physical presence continues to earn respect, both as a singles competitor and as half of the tag team War Machine with Raymond Rowe … Retained the XWA heavyweight title throughout the evaluation period … Unsuccessfully challenged ROH champion Jay Briscoe in May.

242 CHARLIE HAAS (6'2", 242, 19, NL)

Although he attempted to retire in 2013, Charlie is no Haas-been, working numerous events around his home state of Texas … Won gold in IHWE by defeating Americos in September and also scored NWA's Texoma title with a win over Jerome Daniels in May … Co-holder of NWA Texoma tag belts with Dane Griffin.

243 HERNANDEZ (6'2", 295, 19, 191)

SuperMex made waves in Lucha Underground, eventually working his way to a shot at Prince Puma for the company's top title … Returned to TNA as a member of the villainous Beat Down Clan … Defeated former TNA champ Bobby Lashley in a Six Sides of Steel match.

244 MATT TREMONT (5'10", 240, 8, 371)

Death match specialist makes the squared circle a more dangerous place as a matter of practice … Won CZW's King of the Death Matches tourney, beating Connor Claxton in a Panes of Glass match … Also won IWA's death match tourney in late-June.

245 DAVID STARR (5'11", 211, 3, 210)

As half of The Juicy Product with partner J.T. Dunn, Starr carried tag gold in four different promotions, including lengthy stretches in CZW and FIP … Perfectly willing to mix it up with female grapplers, even wrestling the WSU tag belts from Annie Social and Kimber Lee and holding the ladies' straps for a few months.

246 MIGHTY URSUS (5'10", 330, 3, 368)

Won the WWC Universal title for the second time, beating Ray Gonzalez, in July 2014 and kept the gold for over four months until Carly Colon took it away … Finishing move is a springboard moonsault off the turnbuckle.

247 SAMUEL SHAW (6'2", 240, 7, 151)

TNA's creepiest of creeps found steady work in the company through early-2015, surviving feuds with Mr. Anderson and Gunner and scoring an occasional win over the likes of Crazzy Steve and Crimson … Was released from TNA in March and worked matches in Florida-based Vintage Wrestling in May.

248 BRIAN KENDRICK (5'8", 183, 15, 264)

Whether working on the West Coast or in shows across Europe, kept things moving in his career until he eventually found his way back to WWE, working some matches in NXT … Reunited with former WWE partner Paul London to win Scotland-based ICW's tag title.

249 TARIK (5'10," 189, 6, 402)

Also known as Alex Vega, TARIK has carried the UNION Northern Lights cruiserweight strap since September 2014, also landing the PWE TV cruiserweight titles along the way … Known to many fans as Rock Steady, TARIK often uses a backpack stunner to immobilize opponents for the three-count.

250 SOLOMON CROWE (5'10", 207, 9, NL)

Defeated veteran Brian Kendrick in a dark match for NXT and also racked up a list of wins over other NXT mainstays, including Bull Dempsey, Tye Dillinger, and Kalisto … The former Sami Callihan has struggled to get a win over prominent opponents such as Finn Balor, Hideo Itami, and Baron Corbin.

PHOTO BY LEE SOUTH/TNA WRESTLING

251 STEVIE RICHARDS (6'1", 215, 23, 204)

ECW original is perhaps in the best shape of his career, owing in part to his devotion to DDP Yoga … Challenged for the EVOLVE heavyweight title in September 2014, wrestling champion Drew Galloway and Devin Thomas in a three-way … Re-formed The Blue World Order at Heroes & Legends and for an "invasion" on the WWE Network.

252 KZY (5'8", 165, 8, NL)

Enigmatic Dragon Gate wrestler is a three-time Open the Triangle Gate champion … Competing as "Dr. Muscle," won the vacant Open the Brave Gate title in January tournament … Allied with Dragon Kid and BxB Hulk … Top moves include the Beat Bomb and the Skayde Schoolboy.

PHOTO BY SCOTT FINKELSTEIN

253 J. DIESEL (5'9", 229, 4, NL)

Jacked Brooklyn native is making his mark in Ring of Honor … Competed in the ROH Top Prospect Tournament and was recruited by manager Truth Martini into The House of Truth stable … Frequently teams with Donovan Dijak … Defeated The Romantic Touch in a singles bout in May.

254 AIDEN O'SHEA (6'4", 262, 16, 236)

The former Jay Bradley recently returned to TNA under his new ring name … Did a stint in OVW earlier this year … Won the Resistance Pro tag belts with Mad Man Pondo in November 2014 … Finisher is the Boomstick clothesline.

255 SHINGO TAKAGI (5'10", 212, 10, 195)

The first graduate of the Dragon Gate Dojo is a five-time DG Open the Twin Gate champion … Briefly held the ROH tag title with Naruki Doi in 2007 … Currently a member of the Monster Express stable in DG and frequently teams with Akira Tozawa … Finisher is the Last Falconry fisherman driver.

256 SIMON GOTCH (6', 209, 14, 215)

"The Gentleman Bruiser" hearkens back to the days when ladies wore their fur coats to the matches, men smoked cigars, George Hackenschmidt ruled the roost, and tickets cost a nickel … Teams with Aiden English as The Vaudevillains in NXT … Known for his Gentleman's Clutch suplex … Always carries extra mustache wax in his gear bag.

257 SCORPIO SKY (5'10", 190, 13, 216)

Former CWFH heavyweight champion and two-time former CWFH TV champion has been moonlighting in MMA in recent years … Appeared as "Harold" in the classic Daniel Bryan/Kane/Dr. Shelby skits a few years back … Favorite moves include the Blackout DDT, the Final Answer facebuster/neckbreaker, and the triangle choke.

258 BRIAN MYERS (6'1", 223, 11, 247)

The former Curt Hawkins teamed with Trevor Lee to win the TNA tag team title representing Team GFW in July, but they only held the belts for one night … Former "Edge-head" has suffered more than his share of injuries and career setbacks … Main moves include his Heat Seeking Elbow and Laugh Riot lifting DDT.

259 BLK JEEZ (5'6", 175, 15, 306)

"Kiladelphia's Finest" won the CZW heavyweight title in December in a four-way against Sozio, Biff Busick, and Drew Gulak … Seven-time former CZW tag champion and three-time former CZW junior heavyweight champion … Won the vacant JAPW light heavyweight title in November 2014 … Has worked himself into peak physical condition.

260 TOMOAKI HONMA (5'11", 224, 18, NL)

New Japan competitor is known for his devastating headbutt … Two-time former Big Japan Deathmatch champion has left his hardcore days behind … Faced Tomohiro Ishii in a match for the vacant NEVER Openweight title in February … Signature moves include the lariat, the Honma Clutch, and the Crazy Elbow.

261 AIDEN ENGLISH (6'3", 215, 4, 207)

One-half of The Vaudevillains with Simon Gotch … The duo became top contenders to the NXT tag team title after claiming an upset win over Enzo Amore and Big Cass in July … Finishing moves include The Director's Cut slam and a high-angle senton bomb he calls "That's A Wrap."

262 COLIN DELANEY (5'9", 180, 12, 298)

These days, ECW stands for "Extremely Cute Wrestler," which is Delaney's nickname … Rochester, New York, native is active in 2CW, AIW, Upstate Pro Wrestling, and several other promotions around the Great Lakes … Two-time AIW tag champion with Cheech … Beat WWE mentor Tommy Dreamer in an Extreme Rules bout in January.

263 BULL DEMPSEY (6'2", 300, 9, 187)

Burly NXT competitor has won over the fans as he pushes himself to eat right and get in shape—he still has a long way to go … Dempsey's current shtick may be getting some laughs, but it should be noted that he is an immensely powerful wrestler who is capable of administering a savage beating to the body beautifuls.

264 AKITO (5'9", 189, 5, NL)

Cruiserweight has become one of the top names in Japan's DDT promotion … Captured the DDT Extreme title twice during the past year … Wrestled Daisuke Sasaki to a draw in a 60-minute iron man match in April … Main moves include the anklelock, the spear, and the belly-to-belly suplex.

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265 TONY NESE (5'10", 213, 10, 248)

Hybrid athlete was underutilized in TNA, but has found his niche on the indy circuit … Competes mainly in NYWC and EVOLVE … Held the Five Borough Wrestling heavyweight title from September 2014 to December 2014 … Preferred moves are the 450 splash and the reverse piledriver.

266 JACK EVANS (5'8", 165, 15, 273)

Veteran daredevil earned his Lucha Underground Aztec Medallion with a win over Argenis … Based in Mexico's AAA promotion, but ventured to PWG to team with Angelico against The Young Bucks in an indy dream match … Has added notable muscle mass to his frame, which has made his high-impact moves more effective.

267 AKIRA TOZAWA (5'7", 210, 10, 219)

"Big Over" is the reigning Dragon Gate Open the Brave Gate and Open the Owarai Gate champion … One of the founders of the Monster Express stable … Master of the German suplex has perfected the impressive stalling version of the move, which takes remarkable core strength … Also uses a double-kneedrop into a pin.

268 CODY DEANER (6', 220, 15, 265)

Hirsute hillbilly is Mussel Shoals' favorite adopted son … Former TNA competitor continues to "Give 'Er" throughout his native Ontario … Successfully defended the Classic Championship Wrestling title against his mentor and longtime rival Derek Wylde in March … Deceptively skilled technical wrestler and aerialist, but he prefers a good ol'-fashioned dustup these days.

269 JEFF COBB (5'10", 240, 5, 489)

"Swole" Hawaiian is known as "Mr. Athletic" … Jumped up from 489 in last year's "500," thanks to impressive showings in Lucha Underground and in the 2015 King of Indies Tournament, where he advanced to the semifinals … Earned wins over Adam Thornstowe, Brian Cage, and Matt Cross this year.

270 ULTIMO DRAGON (5'8", 230, 28, 221)

Venerable cruiserweight continues to add title belts, most recently teaming with Yoshinobu Kanemaru to win the All Japan All-Asia tag title … Defeated Tiger Ali in a mask vs. hair match in Toryumon's Dragonmania X in Mexico … One of the most respected wrestlers and trainers in the world.

271 JASON GORY (5'6", 174, 11, 266)

Pennsylvania native has formed a tag team with G-Raver known as Generation Dead … Two-time PWX (Pennsylvania) champion most recently held that title from May to October 2014 … Scored a win over Tony Kozina in January … With an array of high-risk moves, Gory is a proven show-stealer.

272 ISAMI KODAKA (5'8", 155, 13, NL)

Former Big Japan Deathmatch champion and three-time DDT Extreme Division champion … Advanced to the finals of the Pro Wrestling Zero-1 2015 Tenkaichi Junior Tournament, but lost to Ikuto Hidaka … Held the UWA (DDT) tag team title with Fuma … Defeated Hi69 for the Independent junior heavyweight title in April.

273 CHUCK TAYLOR (6'1", 198, 13, 175)

"The Kentucky Gentleman" has been a standout on the indy scene for the past few years … He stands to gain more national attention now that he has signed with Global Force Wrestling … Frequently teams with the Trent Barreta as The Best Friends … Unsuccessfully challenged Icarus for the CHIKARA Grand championship in January.

PHOTO BY SCOTT FINKELSTEIN

274 AERO BOY (5'9", 145, 11, NL)

Talented Mexican welterweight started wrestling at the age of 13 … Currently holds the IWL and Xtreme Latin American Wrestling tag title (with Violento Jack) and the LPF championship … Brawler and hardcore specialist proves the adage that the size of the fight in the dog is more important than the size of the dog in the fight.

275 RYAN TAYLOR (6', 185, 11, NL)

SoCal standout is a two-time CWFH TV titlist and a former CWFH tag team champion with Joey Ryan … Advanced to the finals of a tournament for the vacant FSW No Limits title in June, but lost to Jakob Austin Young … Signature moves include a version of the Liontamer and the Phoenix Splash.

276 MASAKATSU FUNAKI (6', 209, 30, 182)

Submission specialist was one of the first pro wrestlers to popularize MMA moves and holds in the wrestling ring … Defeated Kohei Sato for the Zero1 heavyweight title in July 2014, but lost the belt back to Sato two months later … Competed in the 2014 Wrestle-1 First Tag League Greatest Tournament with partner Jiro Kuroshio.

277 JASON JORDAN (6'3", 245, 4, NL)

Promising NXT talent has the physical tools and athletic ability that could make him a contender in WWE in the not-so-distant future … Has been teaming with Chad Gable in recent months … Had rivalries with Bull Dempsey, Baron Corbin, and Solomon Crowe this year … Go-to finisher is the Texas cloverleaf.

278 ARIK CANNON (5'9", 220, 13, 280)

"The Anarchist" has been swilling PBR long before hipsters made it their beer of choice … Chicago mainstay melds puroresu strong-style with old-fashioned Southern-style wrestling, all with a punk rock ethic … Won the DREAMWAVE heavyweight title from Lince Dorado in October 2014 … Also held the DREAMWAVE tag title with Darin Corbin.

279 KENOU (5'9", 209, 7, NL)

"The New Century Champion" is one of the young lions of Pro Wrestling NOAH's junior heavyweight division … Three-time Michinoku Pro junior heavyweight champion … Teamed with Hajime Ohara to win the NOAH GHC junior heavyweight tag title in October 2014 … Notable moves include the high kick and the dragon suplex.

280 DJ HYDE (6'4", 285, 15, 276)

CZW owner also competes in Rockstar Pro (Ohio), NYWC, and VOW (Pennsylvania) … Toured the United Kingdom in autumn 2014 … Defeated Rhino for the Rockstar Pro heavyweight title in July 2014 … Former collegiate football player is also a wrestling trainer … Known for his stiff Summoning lariat.

281 NEGRO CASAS (5'7", 170, 35, 331)

Held the CMLL tag title throughout the entire evaluation period after winning the belts with Shocker for the sixth time, in June 2014 … Held the Mexican National trios title with Felino and Mr. Niebla … Unsuccessfully challenged Volador Jr. for the NWA welterweight title in May.

282 DARIN CORBIN (5'10", 200, 11, 238)

Former DREAMWAVE tag team champion with his mentor, Arik Cannon … Also teams with Ryan Cruz as The North Star Express … Won the F1RST Wrestlepalooza tag title (with Cruz) in June in Minneapolis … Beat Mercurio Jr. for the Paragon Pro Wrestling American title in May.

283 STU GRAYSON (5'10", 187, 9, 291)

Quebec native previously competed under the names Player Dos and Stupefied … One-half of The Super Smash Brothers with Player Uno … Aerial expert brings the excellence of execution to the tandem … Has held tag titles in Alpha-1, NSPW, 2CW, PWG, and CHIKARA … Signature moves include the frog splash and the suicide dive.

PHOTO BY SCOTT FINKELSTEIN

284 DANNY HAVOC (6', 186, 10, 267)

"The Deathmatch Drunkard" is a two-time CZW tag champion, two-time Ultraviolent Underground champion, and CZW junior heavyweight champion … Advanced to the semifinals of the 2015 Tournament of Death before losing to Matt Tremont … Teams with Lucky 13 as The Nation of Intoxication.

285 SHOCKER (5'11", 216, 23, NL)

Veteran luchador is still "1000% Guapo," but after turning his back on his fans in 2014, he also became "1000% Rudo" … CMLL tag team reign with Negro Casas reached 383 days at the conclusion of the evaluation period … Formed the TGR stable with El Terrible and Rey Bucanero this spring.

286 PLAYER UNO (5'11", 220, 11, 283)

"The 8-Bit Luchador" always brings his A-game … Teams with Stu Grayson as The Super Smash Brothers … Was unmasked by the G.O.A.T. Brigade in SMASH in June, igniting a heated feud … Had a 35-day reign as Alpha-1 (Ontario) tag champions this summer.

287 LUCKY 13 (5'6", 165, 11, 341)

Not the biggest guy around, but he makes up for his lack of size with his unpredictability and his thirst for blood … Two-time CZW tag team champion with Danny Havoc … Also competes in Game Changer Wrestling (New Jersey), NYWC, and EPW (Pennsylvania) … Combines brawling tactics with attacks off the top rope.

288 YUKO MIYAMOTO (5'9", 176, 12, NL)

Two-time Big Japan Wrestling Death Match champion has competed in fluorescent bulb matches, barbed wire matches, and other hardcore matches too gruesome to describe … Held the WAVE (Women's) tag title with Isami Kodaki last summer … Finishers include the moonsault, the Valkyrie splash, and the German suplex.

289 KAZ HAYASHI (5'8", 183, 22, NL)

Former WCW cruiserweight seems to get better with age … Teamed with Shuji Kondo to win the Wrestle-1 tag team title in November 2014 … Primary finishing move is the Hayashi Cutter, a spinning headlock elbowdrop … Also uses a variation of the Tombstone piledriver.

290 SHUJI KONDO (5'8", 220, 14, NL)

Former NOAH GHC junior heavyweight champion teamed with Kaz Hayashi to become the inaugural Wrestle-1 tag team champions, winning a tourney for the belts in November 2014 … Held the NWA International lightweight tag title with Seiki Yoshioka … Top finishers are the Gorilla Clutch inverted cloverleaf and the King Kong Lariat.

291 ROY KNIGHT (5'11", 207, 20, 282)

In the U.S., he's best known as Paige's big brother, but in the U.K., this Hooligan first found fame under the name The Zebra Kid … Second-generation competitor won the vacant RQW heavyweight title in June, beating Doug Williams, King Kendo, and Robin Lekime in a four-way bout … Holds the RQW tag belt with brother Zak.

292 DYLAN BOSTIC (6', 208, 8, NL)

Two-time former OVW TV champion won the IWC Super Indy title in June, advancing to the finals of a tournament and then beating Alex Daniels and Raymond Rowe in a three-way bout in the final … Favorite finishing move is the shooting star press … Has been called "The Justin Bieber Of Professional Wrestling."

293 YUJI OKABAYASHI (5'10", 271, 7, NL)

Barrel-chested brawler is the reigning Big Japan heavyweight champion and the DDT KO-D tag team champion (with partner Daisuke Sekimoto) … Not particularly flashy, but big, powerful, and ornery … Reminiscent of Killer Khan … Studied judo prior to wrestling … Employs a brainbuster, power bomb, and Oklahoma Stampede powerslam.

294 B-BOY (5'10", 200, 17, 313)

"The New Age Punisher" has collected his share of titles on both coasts … Held the AWS (California) heavyweight championship from October 2013 to March 2015, when he lost the belt to Willie Mack … Holds the AWS tag title with Lil Cholo … Former CZW heavyweight champion and three-time PWG tag champion.

295 ZAK KNIGHT (6'1", 185, 14, 292)

Lanky U.K. standout is one-half of The Hooligans with brother Roy … Signature moves include the Rainmaker frog splash and the Zodiac Sleeper … Currently holds both the RDW and RQW tag titles … Previously competed as Zak Zodiac … The son of "Rowdy" Ricky Knight and Sweet Saraya Knight.

296 ARGENIS (5'11", 178, 9, NL)

High-flying AAA star moonlights in Lucha Underground as Barrio Negro … Co-holds the LU trios title … Native of Mexico City was trained by Gran Apache … Signature moves include the Asai moonsault, the triple-jump moonsault, and the suicide dive … Frequently teams with Aero Star in AAA.

297 CARLITO (5'10", 230, 16, 189)

Former WWE Intercontinental and U.S. champion is based in Puerto Rico's WWC, but continues to compete on the indies and overseas … Has followed in the footsteps of his father, Carlos Colon, winning the WWC Universal title 15 times … Currently feuding with Ray Gonzalez.

298 JOHN SKYLER (5'10", 210, 7, NL)

"The Southern Savior" won the PWX (North Carolina) heavyweight title in May, taking out champion Cedric Alexander, Ricochet, and Caleb Konley in a four-way elimination bout … Also had wins over Chuck Taylor and Johnny Gargano this year … Finisher is a Sliced Bread #2 variation called "The Saving Grace."

299 KUDO (5'10", 176, 14, NL)

Tokyo native is a four-time DDT KO-D openweight champion … Excellent striker with a background in kickboxing … Frequently teams with Masa Takanashi under the team name Shuten Doji … Boasts a breathtaking top-rope double kneedrop … Strings up opponents in the Tree of Woe and batters them with kneestrikes.

300 TIMOTHY THATCHER (6'3", 224, 10, 372)

"The British Messiah" is proving that the classical English catch-as-catch-can submission style can still be thrilling and effective in an era of flips and flops … Defeated Drew Galloway for the EVOLVE and DGUSA Open the Freedom Gate titles in July … Go-to finishers include the Fujiwara armbar and the Thatcher Stretch.

PHOTO BY ANTHON PINEIRO DELGADO

301 DEVON MOORE (5'10", 180, 14, 320)

Master of ultraviolence is seemingly impervious to pain … Philadelphia native battled in death matches, a "panes of glass" match, and even a scaffold match this year … Former CZW heavyweight, tag team, and TV champion … Main moves are the Yakuza kick and the shooting star press.

302 COREY HOLLIS (5'7", 189, 7, 323)

Alabama native captured the Anarchy Wrestling (Georgia) TV title, the PWF (North Carolina) junior heavyweight title, and the PWX (North Carolina) tag title this year … Teams with Adam Page as Country Jacked … Advanced to the finals of the 2015 ECWA Super 8 Tournament … Utilizes the satellite crossface and the shining wizard.

303 TOMMY DREAMER (6'2", 260, 26, 300)

"The Innovator Of Violence" is still going strong … Architect of House of Hardcore also competed in both TNA and NXT in 2015 … Though he struggled to win the ECW title in the 1990s, he has collected plenty of straps in recent months, including the IWC and 2CW titles.

304 RICKY MANDEL (6'1", 187, 10, 321)

Chicago native debuted in Lucha Underground, first under his own name, and then as Trece … Won the LU Trios title with partners Barrio Negro and El Siniestro de la Muerte … Trained by The Ballard Brothers … Two-time former SoCal Golden State champion … Current Lucha Society of America champion.

305 ETHAN PAGE (6'2", 222, 9, 358)

"All Ego" soldiers on after the retirement of his Monster Mafia tag partner Josh Alexander … Beat Alexander for the AAW (Chicago) title in June … Beat Eddie Kingston in an "I Quit" match in July … Held the UNION (Ontario) heavyweight title from December 2013 to September 2014.

306 JAKE CRIST (5'8", 210, 12, 324)

Charter member of the Ohio Is for Killers stable with brother Dave, and wife, Nevaeh … Competed in the 2015 CZW Tournament of Death, succumbing to Conor Claxton in the semifinals … Held the Rockstar Pro (Ohio) heavyweight title from November 2014 to March 2015 … The Crist brothers are perhaps the most decorated tandem on the indies.

307 RHETT GIDDINS (6'4", 255, 2, 403)

No sophomore slump for the big native of Queens, New York … "The Freak" is a two-time SCW Florida champion, a two-time Pro Wrestling RIOT (Florida) tag champion, and a former PWR heavyweight champion … Signature moves include the big boot, the Big Black clothesline, and the F-5.

308 ASYLUM (6', 255, 12, 296)

Tag team specialist recently showcased his tango skills on *The Amazing Race Canada*, where he is competing with his tag team partner, Matt Burns … Bruiser is better known for trying to take the heads off his opponents than for his soft-shoe … Former ESW (Buffalo) and PWR (Pennsylvania) heavyweight champ.

309 ALEX COLON (5'7", 190, 8, 307)

The self-proclaimed "Best Of The Best" is a five-time American Luchacore (Ohio) champion … Held the CZW Wired TV title in 2014, but has not fared well in recent CZW outings … Advanced to the finals of the 2014 D1Wrestling Harvest of Champions Tournament … Favored moves are the camel clutch, pop-up driver, and tilt-a-whirl stunner.

310 TAICHI (5'10", 187, 12, NL)

Japanese standout has had an impressive run as Pro Wrestling NOAH GHC junior heavyweight champion … Defeated Zack Sabre to become top contender to that title, then went on to beat Atsushi Kotoge for the belt in March … A member of the invading Suzuki-gun stable … Master of the German suplex and missile dropkick.

PHOTO BY STU SAKS

311 STEVE BOZ (5'10", 220, 23, 354)

Windy City institution defeated Jason Dukes for the Chicago Style Wrestling heavyweight title in July 2014 … Primary finishing move is a variation of the Michinoku Driver, alternately known as The Star Maker and The Boz-inoku Driver.

312 DAVE CRIST (5'9", 198, 12, 328)

Primarily a tag team competitor with his brother, Jake, Dave enjoyed some success in singles competition this past year, winning the American Luchacore (Ohio) title twice and earning a shot at the CZW champion BLK Jeez … He and Jake have won more than a dozen tag titles nationwide.

313 ATLANTIS (5'10", 202, 32, NL)

Veteran luchador won the most publicized lucha libre match of the past year, defeating Ultimo Guerrero in a mask vs. mask match in September 2014 … Won the 2015 Fantasticamania Tag Tournament with Mascara Dorada while touring Japan … Master of the Atlantida spinning backbreaker rack … Shows no sign of slowing down, competing in more than 150 matches this year.

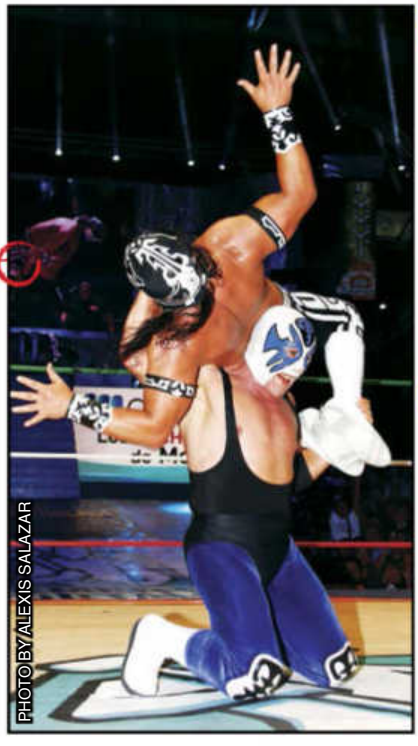

PHOTO BY ALEXIS SALAZAR

314 FAMOUS B (5'9", 195, 6, NL)

California native appeared in Lucha Underground and PWG this year … Won the Alternative Wrestling Show light heavyweight title in February … Won the first Jim Cornette Invitational Cup Tournament in Wilmington, North Carolina, in March … Signature moves include the Fly As I Wanna Be swanton bomb and the Flashing Lights superkick.

315 SONJAY DUTT (5'8", 194, 15, 257)

X division pioneer was one of the first announced members of the Global Force Wrestling roster this spring … Won the Renegade Wrestling Alliance (Pennsylvania) cruiserweight title twice during the past year … Made a handful of appearances in TNA in September 2014 and February 2015 … Master of the 450 splash.

316 TORU YANO (6'1", 254, 13, NL)

Doughy New Japan competitor is often seen as a comedic figure, but he has proven himself capable of pulling off upset wins against high-level competition, including an underhanded win over Hiroshi Tanahashi in the 2015 New Japan Cup tournament … Wrestled a tag match in NOAH on February 22, the same day he ran the Tokyo Marathon.

317 JOHNNY YUMA (5'7", 163, 8, 452)

Yuma defeated The Hobo for the CWFH Heritage heavyweight title in February … Regularly teams with Kevin Martenson (a.k.a. Johnny Goodtime) … So-Cal competitor has referred to his high-energy, aggressive ring style as "kamikaze lucha" … Main finishing move is a double-legged facebuster he calls "The Sex Factor."

318 ULTIMO GUERRERO (5'8", 205, 25, NL)

Former CMLL heavyweight champion was forced to unmask after losing a mask vs. mask match to Atlantis in September 2014 … Gained a small measure of revenge by beating Atlantis in a rematch in January … Held the CMLL trios title with Euforia and Niebla Roja from March 2014 to February 2015.

319 YOSHINOBU KANEMARU (5'8", 187, 9, 250)

Six-time former Pro Wrestling NOAH junior heavyweight champion won the All Japan All-Asia tag title with Ultimo Dragon in March … Fought All Japan junior heavyweight champion Kotaru Suzuki to a double-knockout finish in July … Signature moves include the brainbuster and the moonsault … Attended the AJPW Dojo under the tutelage of Giant Baba and Kenta Kobashi.

320 MATT BURNS (5'10", 236, 13, 301)

One-half of Ontario's most lauded tag team, The Flatliners, with partner Asylum … He and Asylum are contestants on Season Three of *The Amazing Race Canada* … Won the PWE (Ontario) tag title in November 2014, beating The Fraternity in a three-on-two handicap match … Also held the UCW (Michigan) tag titles.

321 HAYATO FUJITA (5'9", 172, 11, 237)

Though small in stature, "Junior" wrestles an ultra-aggressive style that has made him one of Japan's most buzzworthy junior heavyweights … Based in Michinoku Pro Wrestling, Fujita is a two-time former MPW junior heavyweight champion … Has been known to knock opponents into a different time zone with his brutal Heremu running kneestrike.

322 TEDDY HART (6', 187, 17, NL)

The enigmatic third-generation star has courted controversy throughout his career … A superb flyer with an awe-inspiring shooting star press, corkscrew senton bomb, and moonsault … Teamed with Chris Hero to face Samoa Joe and MVP in a tag bout in Jersey All Pro in March … An experienced Persian cat breeder.

323 PSYCHO CLOWN (6'2", 235, 15, 317)

Popular AAA competitor is the leader of the Psycho Circus, along with Monster Clown and Murder Clown … Relies mostly on a mat-based power game … Won the 2014 La Copa Polar Tournament, topping Texano Jr. in the finals.

324 MIKE BAILEY (5'10", 180, 7, 425)

"Speedball" won the 2015 CZW Best of the Best 14 Tournament, prevailing over Jonathan Gresham in the final round … Beat The Green Phantom for the IWS (Montreal) heavyweight title in September 2014 … Also competes in PWG, EVOLVE, and 2CW … Main finisher is the shooting star kneedrop.

325 BARBARO CAVERNARIO (5'8", 192, 7, 380)

Savage caveman ventured from his native Mexico to compete in the 2015 NJPW Best of the Super Juniors Tournament, where he scored wins over Chase Owens, Gedo, and Yohei Komatsu … Defeated Titan for the CMLL Mexican National welterweight title in May … Utilizes a surfboard submission finisher.

326 KENSO (6'3", 260, 15, NL)

Former rugby standout is best known for his run as Kenzo Suzuki in WWE … Defeated Kotaru Suzuki for the All Japan GAORA TV title in December 2014 … Competed in the 2015 AJPW Champion Carnival Tournament, but went winless throughout the two-week event … Represented AJPW in the 2015 Lucha Libre World Cup tournament.

327 HALLOWICKED (6'2", 211, 13, NL)

"The Nightmare Warrior" defeated Icarus for the CHIKARA Grand Championship in April … Challenged for the IWS (Montreal) title, competing in a three-way match against champion Mike Bailey and Jesse Neal in March … CHIKARA Original was trained by Mike Quackenbush and Reckless Youth … Signature moves include his Go to Sleepy Hollow GTS variation.

328 TYE DILLINGER (6'2", 220, 13, 272)

NXT competitor claims to be a "Perfect 10" … Ontario native previously competed as Shawn Spears and briefly wrestled in WWE's ECW as Gavin Spears … Has been in and out of WWE's developmental system for several years … Has embraced his role as a spoiler in NXT.

329 JOHNNY GOODTIME (5'11", 187, 12, 445)

Formed a long-running and highly decorated tag team with Johnny Yuma, known as The RockNES Monsters … The duo won the Championship Wrestling From Hollywood tag title for a third time in October 2014 … Also competes as Kevin Martenson … Won the CWFH TV title in March.

330 CHASYN RANCE (5'6", 175, 16, 378)

Held the FIP Florida Heritage title from May 2014 to February 2015 … Won the BELIEVE Couples Cup Tournament with partner Santana Garrett … Defeated Trevor Lee in EVOLVE … Wrestles for Ring Warriors as the masked El Heroe Byronico … Trainer at the Team Vision Dojo … Finisher is the Chasyn Driver piledriver between the ropes.

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331 LANCE BRAVADO (5'11", 205, 7, 336)

One-half of The Bravado Brothers tag team with his brother, Harlem … Former ROH wrestler currently holds the PWX (North Carolina) tag title with Harlem … Made tours of Japan, England, and China last year … Go-to moves include the powerslam, backbreaker, and belly-to-belly suplex … Trained by Delirious.

332 BILL COLLIER (6'3", 250, 9, 256)

Pennsylvania powerhouse has held the ESW (Buffalo) heavyweight title since November 2014 … Has successfully defended that title against former champ Chris Cooper, Brandon Thurston, Gabe Saint, and Blackjack Phoenix … Also competes in IWC, PWR, and PWX in Pennsylvania … Main finisher is the Cradle Shock.

333 JR KRATOS (6', 260, 4, 399)

Immensely powerful West Coast wrestler is known for his devastating spear and his ring-quaking running powerslam … Currently holds the Gold Rush Pro Wrestling, Supreme Pro Wrestling, PREMIER, and the All Pro Wrestling titles … Has emerged as one of the most dominant wrestlers on the California scene.

334 MASAAKI MOCHIZUKI (5'9", 187, 21, 254)

Dragon Gate competitor is a former Full Impact Pro champion and a two-time Open the Dream Gate champion … Trained by Koji Kitao … Formed the Dia.HEARTS stable with Dragon Kid and BxB Hulk in late-2014 … Feared for his arsenal of stiff kicks and his wicked brainbuster finisher.

335 JOSEF VON SCHMIDT (6'5", 260, 14, 359)

Germanophile regularly competes throughout the Northeast … Also wrestled in Canada and in Ecuador, where he won the WAR Independent championship … Successfully defended his PWA (Connecticut) title against Abyss … Also scored several wins over Shane Douglas … Finisher is the Blitzkrieg Buckle Bomb.

336 HOUSTON CARSON (6', 235, 6, 385)

"The Texan Lion" reigned as Lone Star Championship Wrestling heavyweight champ from October 2014 to May 2015 … Beat former WWE star Gene Snitsky in less than 3:00 in July … Advanced to the semifinals of the ACW (Texas) Lone Star Classic Tournament before losing to MASADA … Known for his superkick and his "Follow That" DDT.

337 JAXSON JAMES (6'2", 230, 2, NL)

South Carolina native was captain of the football team at Newberry College … Long-time wrestling fan was trained by Dr. Tom Prichard … Known as "The Thoroughbred" … Beat Breaker Morant in the opening round of the 2015 Super 8 Tournament, but succumbed to tournament winner Jason Kincaid in the semifinals.

338 BYRON WILCOTT (6'6", 255, 11, 303)

Louisiana native was trained by Jazz and Rodney Mack … "Big Daddy Yum Yum" is a former NWA North American champion … Unsuccessfully challenged Hiroyoshi Tenzan for the NWA heavyweight title in April in Kumamoto, Japan … Won the NWA North American tag title with Teddy Hart in December 2014.

339 AARON EPIC (5'11", 199, 14, 393)

"Death Proof" won the 2015 Florida J-Cup tournament by beating Josh Hess, Ricardo Rodriguez, and Lince Dorado … Mixes solid mat wrestling with an impressive striking game, including his overhand knockout punch … Scored wins over Biff Busick, Rich Swann, and Martin Stone this year … Finisher is a TKO/Go To Sleep hybrid.

340 SHANE STRICKLAND (6'1", 185, 5, 340)

"The New Flavor" debuted as Killshot in Lucha Underground this year … Strickland is a two-time former CZW Wired champion and a former VOW (Pennsylvania) Hyper Sonic champion … Signature moves include the jumping DDT, the axe kick, and the Swerve Stomp … Competed in the 2015 Shane Shamrock Cup tournament.

PHOTO BY FRANK BORIS

341 GREG ANTHONY (5'8", 220, 14, 389)

"The Golden Boy" claims to be "pound-for-pound and inch-for-inch the best of the best in professional wrestling today" … Founding member of The Empire with Matt Riviera … Noteworthy wins this year came against Brian Kendrick and Jason Kincaid … Two-time NWA Mid-South unified champion.

342 HARLEM BRAVADO (6'2", 216, 7, 332)

One-half of Grandma Bravado's favorite tag team, along with his brother, Lance … Won the WrestleForce (South Carolina) tag team title in February and the PWX (North Carolina) tag team title in June … Trained by Delirious at the ROH Academy … Master of the Northern Lights suplex.

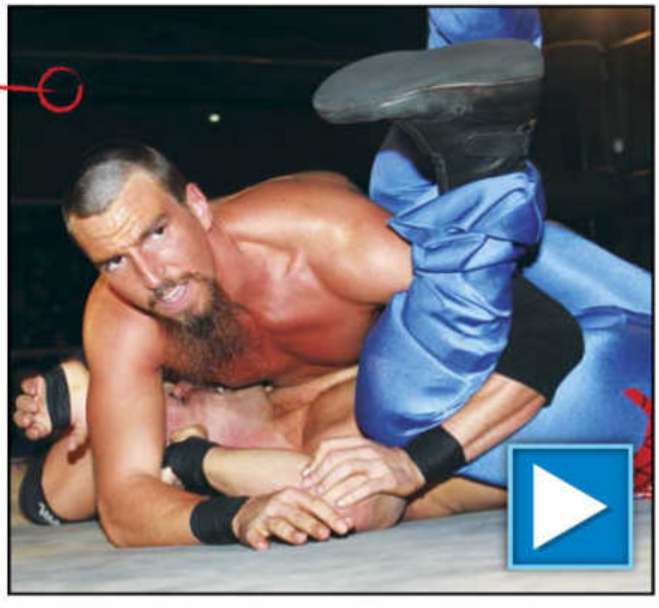

PHOTO BY SCOTT FINKELSTEIN

343 TRAUMA 1 (5'10, 198, 13, NL)

The son of Negro Navarro teams with his brother, Trauma 2, as Las Traumas … Trauma I is the more powerful of the two … Former IWRG (Mexico) tag team champion and Junior de Juniors champion … Competes almost exclusively in tag team and trios matches all over Mexico.

344 THOMAS SHIRE (5'10", 200, 8, NL)

Charlotte native defeated Matt Riviera for the IWHE (Texas) heavyweight title in September 2014 … Successfully defended that title against Charlie Haas several times until finally relinquishing the belt to Haas in June … Also held the Inspire Pro (Texas) Pure Prestige title from October 2014 to March 2015.

345 ANGEL METALICO (5'6", 165, 7, NL)

Popular luchador held The Crash cruiserweight title of Mexico's LLT promotion from February 2014 until May 2015, when he lost it to Pentagon Jr. in a match that also included Drago and Zarco … Master counter-wrestler with superb balance and an array of flying attacks and takedowns.

346 WILLIE MACK (5'10", 245, 9, 422)

California mainstay debuted on the national stage as The Mack in Lucha Underground … Scored a pair of wins over Cage, who had looked unbeatable in LU … Made it to the finals of the 2015 King of the Indies tournament.

347 GRAN AKUMA (5'10", 198, 13, 277)

CHIKARA alumnus has been competing up and down the East Coast … Held the FIP Florida Heritage title in 2014 … Expertly blends aerial attacks with stiff, hard-hitting strikes, making him a difficult opponent to defend against … Main finishers are the Falcon Arrow and the Yoshi Tonic.

348 JOHN McCHESNEY (5'10", 188, 14, 319)

"Big League" recently made his Global Force Wrestling debut with a loss to Eric Young … Has held the Pro Wrestling Rampage heavyweight title since November 2013 … Scored a win over Matt Hardy in December 2014 … Signature moves include the TKO, the superkick, and the missile dropkick.

349 TRAUMA 2 (5'9", 154, 13, NL)

Mexico City native is the son of Negro Navarro and the brother of his tag team partner, Trauma I … Known for his high-risk aerial attacks … Former IWRG (Mexico) Junior de Juniors champion … Unsuccessfully challenged for both the UWA junior heavyweight title and the AULL heavyweight title this year.

350 TREVOR LEE (5'11", 210, 8, 294)

Talented up-and-comer scored wins over Anthony Nese, Chris Hero, and Rich Swann this year … Emerged with the vacant OMEGA heavyweight title by winning a three-way bout over Matt Hardy and C.W. Anderson … Had a one-month reign as PWG tag team champions with Andrew Everett … Won the CWF tag title with Chet Sterling.

351 SEAN CARR (6'3", 209, 6, NL)

"The Hybrid" advanced to the semifinals of the 2015 ECWA Super 8 Tournament, but was eliminated by Corey Hollis … 2CW mainstay uses the Tombstone piledriver as his finisher of choice … Other notable moves include the superkick and a steamroller into a second-rope moonsault … Won the LCW (Pennsylvania) Rotten Corps title.

352 SCOTTY O'SHEA (5'10", 235, 12, NL)

"The Hacker" has been on a hot streak in SMASH … Scored wins over Pepper Parks, Robbie E, and Brent Banks over the past year … Beat Ashley Sixx for the Fringe Pro Wrestling (Hamilton) heavyweight title in November 2014 … Teamed with Alessandro Del Bruno to win the Alpha-1 tag title.

353 AMERICOS (5'8", 175, 3, 401)

Dynamic masked man is a star-spangled crowd favorite … Held the NWA-Elite tag team title with Mustang Mike in late-2014 … Wrestled for ROH in April, suffering a loss to Moose … Unsuccessfully challenged Matt Riviera for the NWA Western States title … Signature moves include the Old Glory senton bomb and the front-flip neckbreaker.

354 EL SINIESTRO DE LA MUERTE (5'11", 187, 7, NL)

Mysterious luchador previously competed as El Mariachi Loco before undergoing a dark transformation and joining The Disciples of Death in Lucha Underground … His name means "The Loss Of Death," which is certainly more intimidating than "The Crazy Mariachi" … Won the LU trios title with Barrio Negro and Trece in April.

355 AJ ISTRIA (6', 194, 8, 363)

Australian beat Jonah Rock in May to become a three-time Pacific Pro Wrestling Pacific heavyweight champion … Known for his wrist-clutch exploder … Won the 2015 PPW P-1 Tournament, topping Jag Hartley Jackson in the finals … Trained as a gymnast prior to becoming a wrestler and has incredible balance, agility, and core strength.

356 RAY ROSAS (5'8", 172, 6, NL)

California-based wrestler was trained by Joey Kaos and Supreme … Won the Santino Bros. Wrestling Dynamite D Memorial Battle Royal in April … Frequently teams with Peter Avalon as PPRay … Held the Insane Wrestling League title from September 2013 until April 2015, when he lost it to Avalon in a seven-man match.

357 JIMMY HAVOC (5'10", 174, 11, NL)

Brawler is considered by some to be the top heel in the United Kingdom … Hardcore specialist took on Abyss in a Monster's Ball match in England in July; despite giving away nearly 175 pounds, Havoc proved to be a test for the man-monster … Beat Grado for the IPW:UK All England title in March.

358 BUXX BELMAR (5'11", 194, 11, 419)

If you can get past his disgusting habits and poor personal hygiene, Belmar is an impressive wrestler—but he's still gross … Currently holds the BATTLEWAR (Montreal), TOW (Quebec), and C4 (Ottawa) championships … Has also appeared in CZW … Trained by Jacques Rougeau … Finishing move is The Buxxbuster.

359 JESSY SORENSEN (5'10", 205, 7, NL)

Former TNA competitor was out of action for more than a year after suffering a broken neck in 2012 … Beat Caleb Koley for the Paragon Pro Wrestling (Las Vegas) title in April … Appeared on NXT in July … Main finishers are the shooting star press and the DDT.

360 GREGORY IRON (5'5", 165, 9, 361)

"The Handicapped Hero" overcame a right arm that was atrophied by cerebral palsy to find success in the squared circle … Seems to have a split personality, as he competes as a clean-cut fan favorite in some areas and as an obnoxious villain in others … Protected by his stooges, The Iron Curtain.

361 CHET STERLING (6'1", 196, 3, NL)

Rising star in the Carolina Wrestling Federation … Defeated Manny Garcia for the CWF Mid-Atlantic TV title in March … Also holds the CWF tag team title with Trevor Lee … Main finishing move is the Blockbuster … CWF Rising Generation League champion in 2014.

362 BRANDON ESPINOSA (5'10", 221, 10, 362)

St. Louis standout successfully defended the MMWA (Missouri) heavyweight title against Da'Marius Jones in an iron man match that went to overtime in January … Teamed with Jack Jameson as Punch Drunk Love in ROH … Simultaneously held the MMWA, Dynamic Pro Wrestling tag, and RCW Tri-State titles … Finisher is the brainbuster.

363 NEGRO NAVARRO (5'9", 198, 40, NL)

Veteran has been a staple of the Masters division in FLLM (Mexico) in recent years … Two-time Masters champion most recently held that title from February 2014 to May 2015, when he lost the belt to Solar … Unsuccessfully challenged for the IWRG Intercontinental title in April … Master of La Magistral.

364 ICARUS (5'10", 174, 13, 288)

Versatile wrestler defeated Eddie Kingston for the CHIKARA Grand Championship in May 2014 and held that title for 316 days until dropping it to Hallowicked in London, England … Successfully defended against Jimmy Jacobs in October 2014 … "The Winged Ring Warrior" was trained by Mike Quackenbush and Reckless Youth.

365 WES BRISCO (5'10", 225, 6, 259)

Son of Jerry Brisco was awarded the Cauliflower Alley Club's Future Legend award in 2015 … Had a stint in TNA as a member of Aces and Eights … Currently competes on the Florida independent scene … Beat Brian Lacey for the BANG hardcore title in June … Former NWA-FUW heavyweight champion.

PHOTO BY SCOTT FINKELSTEIN

366 ZACH GOWEN (5'11", 179, 13, 392)

One-legged competitor has been an inspiration, overcoming drug and alcohol abuse and reinvigorating his career … Much in demand motivational speaker … Teams with Gregory Iron as The Handicapped Heroes … Still flies with his impressive moonsault and can make opponents submit with his one-legged figure-four leglock.

367 DRU ONYX (6'2", 326, 16, 382)

Ever wonder how Kevin Owens became so ornery? Perhaps it was due to the time he spent training under Dru Onyx … Made his ROH debut in January … Held the NCW Quebec title and the NCW Inner Cities title this year … Favorite moves include the Roadkill spear, the Vader Bomb, and the Samoan Drop.

368 ANDREW EVERETT (5'10", 185, 8, 410)

The former Chiva Kid has had a banner year, appearing in ROH, EVOLVE, IWC (Pennsylvania), PWG, and CZW, among other promotions … Won the PWG tag team title with Trevor Lee in May … Advanced to the semifinals of the 2015 IWC Super Indy Tournament … Superior aerialist is one to watch.

369 JEREMY WYATT (6', 216, 12, NL)

One of the most prolific competitors on the Midwest independent scene … Captured the 3XW heavyweight title for the fifth time in July 2014, beating champion Tony Sly and Gage Octane in a three-way bout … Also held the PWP (Iowa) tag title and the MPW (Kansas) heavyweight title this year.

370 LINCE DORADO (5'8", 185, 8, 388)

"The Golden Lynx" cut his teeth in CHIKARA and currently is based in Florida … Advanced to the finals of the 2015 Florida J-Cup Tournament by beating Johnny Vandal and Jason Cade, but succumbed to former tag partner Aaron Epic in the finals … Held the DREAMWAVE Alternative title in 2014.

371 **JOE GACY (5'11", 250, 9, 346)**
CZW mainstay has refined his game in recent months, and the work he has put in at the gym has been evident in matches against Shane Strickland, Mike Bailey, and others … Beat Tony Mamaluke in the finals of a tournament to claim the NYWC Fusion title in May.

PHOTO BY SCOTT FINKELSTEIN

372 **LANCE ANOA'I (6'2", 205, 5, 394)**
Blue-chip prospect has solid bloodlines: He's the grandson of Samoan Afa, the son of Samu, and a cousin to The Rock … Beat Bo Nekoda for the WXW (Pennsylvania) heavyweight title for a second time in July … Has been making steady progress since his pro debut and is certainly on WWE's radar.

373 **SOLAR (5'8", 196, 40, NL)**
Ageless masked man continues to win championships and thrill opponents after four decades … Beat Negro Navarro for his third FLLM Masters championship in May … Advanced to the finals of the 2015 Victoria Lucha Libre World Cup trios tournament with Blue Demon Jr. and Dr. Wagner Jr.

374 **SEBASTIAN SUAVE (5'10", 210, 8, NL)**
"The Overdog" was mentored by Tyson Dux … The founder of SMASH Wrestling competes throughout Ontario and Western New York … Wrestling style is a mix of technical grappling and strike-based attacks … Previously teamed with Josh Alexander and John Greed … Has competed in both Mexico and Japan.

375 **RJ CITY (6'1", 209, 9, 349)**
"The Midnight Special" is a consummate showman … Defeated Dalton Castle for the International Wrestling Cartel heavyweight title in January, only to lose it to Tommy Dreamer later that day … Formed a tag team with Cody Deaner known as The Golden Guys … Beat Kevin Bennett for the ESW (Buffalo) Interstate title in May.

376 **ROBERT ANTHONY (6'3", 220, 14, 304)**
Former WWE developmental talent is still making waves on the Chicago independent scene … Held the Resistance Pro Wrestling tag title with Jocephus … Defeated Mad Man Pondo in a hardcore bout in September 2014 … Still periodically competes as his masked Egotistico Fantastico alter-ego … Trained by Harley Race.

377 **DYLAN DRAKE (6'2", 213, 8, 435)**
"The Golden Boy" is a four-time former APW (California) Universal champion and a former Gold Rush Pro Wrestling heavyweight champion … Earned bragging rights at the 2015 Cauliflower Alley Club Reunion by winning a battle royal to earn a shot at the Cauliflower Alley Cup, but was defeated by Kahagas in the championship bout.

378 **PHOENIX STAR (5'8", 180, 12, NL)**
California native teams with Zokre as Los Luchas … Signature finishing move is the 450 splash … Tag team specialist is a former NWA, EWF, and AWS tag champion, all with Zokre … Also previously held the IWA Puerto Rico Extreme cruiserweight title … Won the OWA tag title in December 2014.

379 **DAMIEN 666 (5'9", 222, 32, NL)**
Middle-aged and crazy luchador remains one of the top stars on the Mexican and Southern California independent scenes … Lost a hair vs. hair match to Chavo Guererro Jr. in August 2014 … Teamed with Bestia 666 to win the WWA tag team title … Primary moves are the moonsault and the power bomb.

380 **JAG HARTLEY JACKSON (5'11", 244, 16, NL)**
Australian veteran has formed a tag team with Jonah Rock known as The South Australian Serial Killers … Advanced to the finals of the 2015 Pacific Pro Wrestling P-1 tournament, where he lost to longtime rival A.J. Istria … Signature moves are The Jagged Edge, the Crocodile Clutch, and the Death Valley Driver.

381 MARKO ESTRADA (5'10", 178, 13, 387)

The reigning North Shore Pro Wrestling champion is considered to be one of the top heels in Quebec … Holder of the NSPW title since December 2013 … Has collected wins over top-notch competition, including Brian Cage, Tommaso Ciampa, and Joey Ryan … Notable moves include the frog splash and shining wizard.

382 ALI SHABAZZ (5'11", 210, 4, NL)

"The Human Action Figure" is a rising prospect in the NWA … U.S. Army veteran is trained in Brazilian Jiu-jitsu and Tae Kwon Do … Beat Corey Cruise for the NWA Southern junior heavyweight title in January … One month later, defeated Drew Haskins for the NWA Southern TV title.

383 EDDIE SMOOTH (6', 213, 5, NL)

The self-professed "Coolest Person Alive" hails from Hollywood (by way of Philadelphia) … Has competed in CZW, Wrestling Is Fun!, and Maryland Championship Wrestling … Lost a 30-minute iron man match to A.R. Fox, four falls to three, in March … Claims he's so skilled he can pop a wheelie on a unicycle.

384 ZOKRE (5'8", 183, 12, NL)

Popular masked man teams with Phoenix Star as Los Luchas … Former EWF, NWA, and AWS tag team champion, all with Phoenix Star … Employs a high-flying attack, including a crisp precision 450 splash.

385 CHASE DEL MONTE (6'1", 216, 11, NL)

Massachusetts native lost the Chaotic Wrestling New England title to Elia the Great in September 2014, but recovered in a big way by beating Donovan Dijak for the CW heavyweight title in March … Successfully defended that title against Dijak in a last-man-standing bout in May.

386 EDDIE KINGSTON (5'11", 240, 13, 285)

Former CHIKARA Grand champion defeated Keith Walker for the AAW (Chicago) heavyweight title in November 2014 … Retained that title with a win over Davey Richards in February … The "War King" is a rugged brawler and suplex master … Has knockout power in his Backfist to the Future and lariat.

387 HANNIBAL (6'5", 286, 14, NL)

Returned to the ring after a three-year retirement in May 2014 and immediately beat Jeremy Prophet for the Great North Wrestling Canadian heavyweight title … Pinned Dan Severn to retain that title in February … Also wrestled AJ Styles in a best-of-three falls match in August 2014, winning one fall.

388 BC KILLER (5'10", 320, 10, NL)

Burly Los Angeles native beat Tyler Bateman for the Santino Bros. Wrestling submission title … Beat JD Horror in a "No Ropes, Barbed Wire Tai Pei Death Match" in Underground Empire Wrestling (California) in March … Relishes the idea of inflicting pain on opponents in hardcore matches.

389 NAPALM BOMB (6'3", 253, 8, 404)

Philadelphia native lost to Sean Carr in the opening round of the 2015 ECWA Super 8 Tournament … Bounced back to beat Chris Wylde for the ECWA Mid-Atlantic title in June … Also held the WXW (Florida) tag team title with Solo.

390 HELLCAT (5'9", 175, 19, 377)

Rochester institution is coming up on his 20th year in the game … Won the Kayfabe Dojo heavyweight, Upstate Pro Wrestling tag team, and Ultimate Wresting tag team titles (both with Rob Sweet) this year … New training regimen has him in the best condition of his career.

PHOTO BY SCOTT FINKELSTEIN

391 CALEB KONLEY (5'11", 207, 9, 305)

Georgia native beat Rich Swann for the FIP heavyweight title in July … Also competes in EVOLVE, CZW, PWX (North Carolina), and throughout the mid-Atlantic … Solid all-around wrestler with strong fundamentals, impressive aerial abilities, and plenty of charisma … Reminiscent of a young Chris Sabin.

PHOTO BY SCOTT FINKELSTEIN

392 GRADO (5'8", 220, 11, 500)

Last year's number 500 was selected to participate in TNA's British Boot Camp, where he managed to get on Al Snow's bad side … Eventually won Snow's respect after scoring a win over the grumpy vet … Scottish lawmakers actually lobbied Madonna to allow him to use "Like A Prayer" as his entrance music on U.S. TV.

393 GREG EXCELLENT (6'1", 300, 11, 476)

Defeated Alexander Jones for the reinstated CZW junior heavyweight title in March (though it's a stretch to call Excellent a "junior heavyweight") … Advanced to the semifinals of the 2014 Battle of Hanover Tournament in Ground Breaking Wrestling in November 2014 … Top moves are the Tiger Driver and running cannonball.

394 COLLIN CUTLER (5'11", 171, 8, 370)

Kelowna, British Columbia, native is one-half of Cougar Meat with Kyle Sebastian … Also teams with Shotgun Stevens as the Adult Social Society … Two-time former All-State Wrestling tag team champion and cruiserweight champion … Won the 2014 Okanagan Cup Tournament in December 2014 … Calls himself "The Canadian Classic."

395 SOLO (6'1", 262, 5, NL)

Powerhouse out of Maryland has been competing in WXW (Florida) and the ECWA … Regularly teams with Napalm Bomb … Is a two-time WXW tag team champion and two-time Maryland Championship Wrestling tag champion … Team also won the 2014 Wild Samoan Tag Tournament … Trained by Samu … Known as "The Perfect Blend."

396 LIL CHOLO (5'7", 207, 14, 405)

Orange County native has held the Vendetta Pro Wrestling heavyweight title since August 2014 … Successfully defended against Paul London, Brian Kendrick, and Ricardo Rodriguez … Also competes as Mr. Cisco in Lucha Underground, where he is an enforcer in The Crew … Main finisher is a running Ace Crusher.

397 SHANE MATTHEWS (5'10", 202, 12, 442)

Teams with Scott Parker as Team 3.0 … Won a battle royal to become top contender for the BATTLEWAR (Montreal) heavyweight title in May … Former CHIKARA, IWS (Montreal), and NSPW (Ottawa) tag champion … Favorite moves include the side slam, Boston crab, power bomb, and elbowdrop.

398 SUPER FLY (5'7", 180, 14, NL)

AAA competitor had a roller-coaster year … On one hand, he debuted on Lucha Underground and gained exposure in the U.S. … On the other hand, he suffered a humiliating loss to Sexy Star and was forced to unmask … Impressive aerialist has adopted a more aggressive style since that loss.

399 JAKE DIRDEN (6'7", 242, 3, NL)

Towering redwood of a man competed in the ROH Top Prospects competition … Defeated Mike Outlaw for the Dynamite Pro (Missouri) heavyweight title in May … Relies mainly on his raw power to overwhelm opponents and wear them down for his chokeslam he calls "The Cure."

400 STOCKADE (5'10", 273, 7, NL)

Stocky brawler is known for his high-impact, aggressive style, including his ferocious lariat and spear … Beat The Big O for the NYWC heavyweight title in May … Also competes in CZW and Beyond Wrestling, among other Northeast promotions … Had a lengthy heated rivalry with Matt Tremont that crossed promotional boundaries this year.

401 MILO BEASLEY (5'11", 180, 17, 400)

Wrestling's greatest homeless superstar continues to break new ground in the world of hobo video-journalism … Florida-based wrestler also hosts his own web-based interview show, along with his longtime partner, a teddy bear known as Mr. Bearsley … Unsuccessfully challenged Francisco Ciatso for the Vintage Wrestling title.

PHOTO BY SCOTT PARKER

402 SCOTT PARKER (5'11", 172, 12, 449)

"Jagged" is the level-headed partner of Shane Matthews in Team 3.0 … Competes in CHIKARA, IWS (Montreal), and NSPW (Quebec City) … Advanced to the semifinals of the 2014 CHIKARA King of Trios tourney (with Matthews and Archibald Peck) … Signature moves include the lungblower and side Russian legsweep.

403 MICHAEL TARVER (6'2", 255, 10, NL)

Former Nexus member remains active on the Florida indy scene … Two-time former Florida Underground Wrestling heavyweight champion … Competes in FIP, RONIN, and RingWarriors … Aggressive competitor and expert striker … Signature moves include the Superman punch, the Kill Shot punch, and the thrown scoop reverse powerslam.

404 MAD MAN PONDO (5'10", 220, 26, NL)

Veteran has traveled the globe and left a trail of plasma everywhere he has gone … Won the Juggalo Championship Wrestling tag title with "Crazy" Mary Dobson in February … Also holds the Resistance Pro Wrestling tag title with Shane Mercer … Go-to finisher is a stop sign to the head.

405 JODY KRISTOFFERSON (6'1", 260, 6, NL)

"The War Pig" was released from his WWE developmental contract last year, but he's still pursuing his dream of making it in pro wrestling … Son of legendary musician Kris Kristofferson is based in Florida … Teams with Martin Stone as The Sons of the Atlantic … He and Stone won the WXW tag title in May.

406 ACID JAZ (5'5", 187, 8, 408)

Made Chicago Style Wrestling history by becoming the first person ever to hold that company's heavyweight, tag team, and Metro division titles … Formed a tag team with Bryce Benjamin and won the Freelance Wrestling (Chicago) tag title in April … Has a kayo punch he calls the "Weapon Of Jaz Destruction."

407 KEVIN BENNETT (5'10", 162, 4, 481)

North Tonawanda, New York, native recently debuted in SMASH Wrestling and was serenaded by fans with a "Please Come Back" chant … Held the Empire State Wrestling Interstate title from December 2014 to May 2015 … Scored a big win over former tag partner Sonjay Dutt in November 2014.

408 BRENT BANKS (6'3", 172, 8, NL)

Toronto native previously competed as the basketball-loving Brent B, but he has adopted a more serious attitude and his career has kicked into high gear … Has feuded with Ashley Sixx in Superkick'd and A1 (Hamilton) … Part of the All Black Everything stable, managed by the sultry Jade Chung.

409 TRAVIS TOXIC (5'6", 172, 4, NL)

Quebec native has held the NSPW junior heavyweight title since May 2014 … Has earned some impressive wins over the likes of Paul London, Mike Bailey, and Cedric Alexander … Won the Ultimate-8 Tournament in Montreal in May … Also competed in C4 (Ottawa) … Known for his 450 splash.

410 EL LIGERO (5'7", 67, 14, NL)

Cruiserweight is one of the most successful luchadors based in the United Kingdom … Known as "The Mexican Sensation" … Held the Grand Pro Wrestling British title from April 2014 to June 2015 … Won the 2015 SWE Speed King tournament for the title in May.

411 TOMMY MACK (5'11", 220, 220, 426)

New Hampshire-based competitor is known as "Heart Attack" Tommy Mack … Wears a replica of a human heart around his neck … Defeated Abyss in a steel cage match earlier this year … Frequently competes in IWE (Maine) and PWA (Connecticut) … Signature moves include the frog splash and the spear.

412 KYLE SEBASTIAN (6'3", 217, 10, 365)

Former Cauliflower Alley Club "Future Legend" award winner teams with Collin Cutler as Cougar Meat … Based in British Columbia but has competed internationally, including a successful tour of Pro Wrestling NOAH … Favorite finisher is the Death Valley Driver.

413 MARSHE ROCKETT (6'5", 211, 10, 411)

Chicago-area standout is known as "Mr. M80" for his explosive offense … Defeated the man-monster Jocephus for the Resistance Pro Wrestling heavyweight title in November 2014 … Beat Shane Hollister in a loser-leaves-town match in DREAMWAVE in December 2014 … Also had a win over Roderick Strong.

414 JECKLES THE JESTER (6'5", 229, 8, 417)

Freaky, unorthodox wrestler won the Vendetta Pro Wrestling Tri-Force title in a match with Vintage Dragon and El Mariachi Loco in December 2014 … Beat Dave Dutra for the WFC (California) title in November 2014 … Demented funny man can fly with moonsaults off the second rope or overpower opponents with his half-nelson slam.

415 RIK LUXURY (5'11", 218, 15, 409)

Flashy California wrestler held the Gold Rush Pro Wrestling heavyweight title from April 2014 to April 2015 … Also held the APW Universal title from June 2014 to March 2015 … Teamed with Corvus to win the SPW tag title for the fifth time in April.

416 THOMAS DUBOIS (5'11", 187, 12, 434)

Powerhouse is one-half of Le Tabarnak de Team (TDT) with Mathieu St-Jacques … The duo is Quebec's hottest tag team … Competes in C4 (Ottawa), NSPW and IWS (Quebec), Beyond Wrestling, and SMASH … Primary moves include the Execution-Style Northern Lariat, the Emerald Fusion, and the moonsault.

417 LOU MARCONI (5'11", 233, 22, 314)

Veteran has held the NWA National heavyweight title three times … His most recent reign lasted from July 2014 until February 2015, when he lost to Jax Dane … Main finishing move is the lariat … Other moves include the choke-bomb and the Texas cloverleaf.

418 CHRIS COOPER (5'11", 218, 13, 453)

Cocky but capable, Cooper has been one of Empire State Wrestling's (Buffalo) top stars for the past five years … Two-time ESW heavyweight champion most recently held that belt from June 2013 to November 2014 … Scored wins over Adam Cole, Johnny Gargano, and Gregory Iron over the past year.

419 JOHNNY DEVINE (5'10", 209, 18, NL)

Former X division champion still competes when he's not busy managing his restaurant, City Circle Cafe, in Calgary … Unsuccessfully challenged Rik Luxury for the Gold Rush Pro Wrestling heavyweight title in April … Graduate of the Hart Family Dungeon is now training wrestlers himself … Underrated ring general.

420 CHRIS AROS (5'11", 200, 11, 451)

The former Chris Cruze has reinvented himself as a Greek warrior after a string of soul-crushing loses, including one to Kevin Steen … Accidentally stepped through an "ancient dimension gate" where the gods Ares and Eros re-christened him "Aros" … New identity has given the plucky Quebecer new confidence.

421 ROB SWEET (5'8", 190, 7, 406)

Upstate New Yorker is one-half of The Rochester Wrecking Crew with his mentor, Hellcat … Won the UPW tag team title for the second time in March … Signature moves include the Sweet Spot legdrop and the Sweet Insanity stunner … Tenacious competitor has had mixed success in singles competition.

422 BOBBY SHARP (6', 218, 12, 376)

"The Lion Warrior" is usually accompanied by the stunning Kat Von Heez … Western Canadian standout had a long-running rivalry with Seiya Sanada this year … Won the Real Canadian Wrestling heavyweight title … Completed his fourth grueling "Death Tour" of Northern Manitoba … Pet moves include the frog splash and Michinoku Driver.

PHOTO BY RACHEL LING

423 MATHIEU ST-JACQUES (5'10", 220, 8, 428)

Intense performer is one of Quebec's rising stars … Teams with Thomas Dubois as Le Tabarnak de Team (TDT) … The team currently holds both the C4 (Ottawa) and NSPW (Quebec) tag team titles … Also competes in Beyond Wrestling, SMASH, and IWS … Renowned for his stiff back suplex.

424 DANNY RAMONS (5'10", 210, 12, NL)

"The Heavenly Half-Breed" has been making waves throughout Texas … Has dropped weight and focused on the junior heavyweight division … Also competes as Cherry Ramons … Three-time Grand Warrior champion at NWA Wrestling Revolution … Beat Rudy Russo for the NWA-Lone Star junior heavyweight title in May.

425 GABE SAINT (5'10", 190, 11, 440)

"The Bull Of Black Mountain" melds strong-style offense with old-fashioned brawling tactics … Reigned as Upstate Pro Wrestling (Rochester) No Limits champion from March 2014 to January 2015 … Became top contender to the ESW (Buffalo) title by winning a battle royal, but was unable to defeat champ Bill Collier.

426 NICK HAMMONDS (6', 210, 12, NL)

"Notorious" Nick is a three-time NWA-Smoky Mountain TV champion … Grabbed the vacant NWA Mountain Empire (Tennessee) heavyweight title by winning a four-way bout in May … Lost to Jeff Connelly in the opening round of the 2015 Smoky Mountain Cup Tournament … Finisher is the Ace Crusher.

427 RICO DYNAMITE (5'11", 229, 13, NL)

Explosive competitor won the Santino Bros. Wrestling (California) title in November 2014 and has proven to be a fighting champion … Successfully defended that title against Brian Kendrick in February … Teams with Tito Escondido as Two Bad Dudes … Adapted his ring name from his mentor, Dynamite D.

428 EL MARIACHI (5'10", 190, 5, NL)

Former Pro Wrestling Revolution junior heavyweight champion has been involved in a long-running feud with Brian Cage … One of the most popular luchadors in Northern California, where he appears in car commercials and at local sporting events … Occasionally teams with Blue Demon Jr.

429 JAY RIOS (5'10", 190, 6, NL)

Graduate of the Team 3-D school has been appearing in TNA along with his tag team partner, Cruz … Created the Lucha World Order with Cruz and Lince Dorado … Teamed with Tigre Uno to compete in TNA's Tag Team Gold Tournament … Favorite moves include the running knee, springboard cutter, 450 splash, and Asai moonsault.

430 ALEX REYNOLDS (6'4", 196, 9, NL)

One-half of the Beaver Boys with partner John Silver … The pair captured the PWG tag team title with a win over Monster Mafia in May … Has also held the CZW and the NYWC tag team titles, as well as the NYWC heavyweight and Fusion titles … Trained by Mikey Whipwreck.

PHOTO BY TIM WALTERS

431 **KAI KATANA (5'11", 222, 4, NL)**
Was invited to participate in the 2015 ECWA Super 8 Tournament after winning the Victory Pro Wrestling King of New York Tournament in January … Beat AHTU in the finals of that event … Went on to win the VPW heavyweight title in March … Primary finisher is the moonsault.

432 **ADAM THORNSTOWE (5'10", 205, 14, 350)**
Tattooed punk-rocker garnered attention when he won the 2015 King of Indies Tournament in March in San Jose … Tags with Luster the Legend … Has held the Quintessential Pro Wrestling (California) heavyweight title since 2013 … Had wins over Frankie Kazarian, Willie Mack, and Matt Striker this year.

433 **BRANDON THURSTON (5'7", 191, 11, 462)**
Mat-grappling specialist has fully embraced his rulebreaking roots … Scored wins over Jamin Olivencia, Johnny Adams, and Coconut Jones.this year … Formed a faction known as "The Patron Saints Of Professional Wrestling," whom he hand-picked to reveal "the truth" of wrestling.

434 **JESUS RODRIGUEZ (6', 240, 9, NL)**
The former Ricardo Rodriguez has shown he's more than a great personal ring announcer, capturing the World Wrestling Council Puerto Rican title and also competing throughout the U.S., Mexico, Europe, and Australia … Underrated wrestler utilizes an impressive second-rope corkscrew moonsault and a clothesline backbreaker.

435 **FRANCISCO CIATSO (5'10", 222, 19, NL)**
Three-time former Vintage Wrestling (Florida) heavyweight champion, most recently holding that title from July 2014 through January 2015 … Trained under "Exotic" Adrian Street and at the WCW Power Plant.

436 **JAY CRUZ (5'6", 224, 8, NL)**
Puerto Rico native was trained by Bully Ray and Devon … Based in Florida, Cruz made a few appearances with TNA this year, including a three-way match against Kenny King and Grado at Destination X … Tag team specialist has won gold in FIP, NWA-FUW, PWX, and Vintage.

437 **LUSTER THE LEGEND (6'5", 250, 15, 360)**
Massive competitor with the mutton chops and Mohawk is one-half of Reno SCUM with Adam Thornstowe … Suffered a singles loss to his tag partner during the quarterfinals of the 2015 King of the Indies Tournament in March … Is a three-time (and current) Future Stars of Wrestling tag champion.

438 **CHAZ TAYLOR (6'1", 240, 27, NL)**
The second-generation competitor is still very active in his home state of Texas … He is the son of Tugboat Taylor … Won the Wrecking Ball Wrestling heavyweight title in February from Lazarus James in Dallas.

439 **JAMES CLAXTON (6'5", 264, 13, NL)**
Big, hard-hitting cowboy is climbing the ladder of contention in the NWA … Won the NWA-Branded Outlaw heavyweight title in 2014 … Challenged for both the Lone Star heavyweight title and the NWA-Texoma title this spring … Trained by Rudy Boy Gonzalez … Watch out for his big boot and full-nelson facebuster.

440 **KIRK WARMACK (5'11", 233, 3, NL)**
One-half of The G.O.A.T. Brigade with Shane Sabre … Ontario native competes throughout the province (including SMASH in Toronto and C4 in Ottawa) … Debuted in AAW (Chicago) in February … Avid weightlifter utilizes a power-based offense, mixed with precision double-team maneuvers with Sabre … Rapidly improving.

441 JOHN SILVER (5'7", 178, 8, NL)

One-half of The Beaver Boys with Alex Reynolds … Has competed in CZW, PWG, NYWC, and AIW in the past year … Beaver Boys scored a massive win over The Young Bucks in FBW (New York) in November 2014 … Tag team specialist scored impressive singles wins over Tony Nese and Colin Delaney.

442 BJ HANCOCK (6'1", 225, 10, NL)

Captured the vacant Anarchy Wrestling (Georgia) heavyweight title by beating Hollis in July 2014 … Has also held the Anarchy tag title (with Joey Rhymer) and the NWA-Anarchy Young Lions title … Top moves include the piledriver and the kneedrop off the top rope.

443 BEER CITY BRUISER (6'2", 279, 14, NL)

Longtime indy veteran got a new start on his career when he was selected to participate in ROH's Top Prospect Tournament … Also competes under the name Matt Winchester … Burly competitor hails from Waukesha, Wisconsin, and was trained by Trevor Adonis and Harley Race … Finisher is the sit-out chokeslam.

444 AHTU (6'1", 297, 6, 390)

Philadelphia native has competed all over the Northeast … Advanced to the finals of the 2015 Victory Pro Wrestling (New York) "King Of New York" tournament in January … "The God King" has proven to be a dominant force in Sanctuary Wrestling (Pennsylvania), where he holds the heavyweight title.

445 BRANDON SCOTT (5'8", 193, 9, 479)

Known as "Mr. Xcellence," Scott has added 30 pounds of muscle mass in the past year and is holding his own against heavyweight competition … Beat Chuck Lennox for the Maryland Championship Wrestling RAGE title in February … Won the Vanguard Championship Wrestling Lutz Memorial Cup tournament.

PHOTO BY SCOTT FINKELSTEIN

446 SHANE SABRE (6'1", 205, 4, NL)

One-half of the G.O.A.T. Brigade with Kirk Warmack … Competed in the 2015 CWE (Winnipeg) Elite 8 Tournament, but was bounced after an opening round loss to Tyler Colton … Has had a long-running feud with The Super Smash Brothers, which saw Sabre and Warmack take Player Uno's mask in June.

447 DAVID FINLAY JR. (6', 194, 2, NL)

The son of Fit Finlay is currently competing in New Japan Pro Wrestling, where he took part in the 2015 Best of the Super Juniors Tournament … Captured the Power of Wrestling (Germany) junior heavyweight title in October 2014 … Like his father, relies heavily on the European uppercut and uses a version of the Celtic Cross as his finisher.

448 GREGORY JAMES (6', 176, 5, NL)

Enigmatic competitor draws comparisons to a young Sabu, in that he can fly like an elite cruiserweight, but he's also ready to brawl his way through bloody hardcore matches … He is a three-time Metroplex Wrestling (Texas) champion and held that belt from July to December 2014.

449 KONGO KONG (6'6", 400, 9, 223)

Gargantuan brawler held the IWA Mid-South heavyweight title from June 2014 through May 2015 … Won the Neo Wrestling Federation (Ontario) title from Tiberious King in November 2014 … Scored a win over Chris Hero in February … Has a devastating flipping senton delivered to an opponent trapped in the corner.

450 JAKE O'REILLY (6'1", 215, 12, 330)

Hard-hitting Ontario native is known for his high-impact offense and his affinity for quality beer … Frequently teams with Anthony Darko as The Piss Beaters … Also competes in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and recently earned second-place in the heavyweight Ontario Provincial BJJ championship tournament … Currently holds the Rock Solid Wrestling (Ontario) tag team title.

451 **EDDIE DIAMOND (5'9", 215, 6, NL)**
Captured the OVW title with a win over Mohammad Ali Vaez in April … Has successfully defended that title against Jay Bradley, Adam Revolver, and Shane Williams … Favorite finishing move is the crossfire submission … Calls himself "The Teflon Don From Boca Raton."

452 **MAX SMASHMASTER (6'4", 295, 10, NL)**
Huge, face-painted monster is the veteran member of CHIKARA's most intimidating tag team, Devastation Corporation … Won the CHIKARA tag title and 2014 King of Trios tournament … In addition to his raw power, Smashmaster also is an aerial threat with an impressive moonsault and flying senton bomb in his arsenal.

453 **ADAM REVOLVER (6'1", 221, 11, NL)**
One of OVW's most decorated wrestlers, Revolver is a seven-time OVW TV champion, five-time OVW Southern tag team champion, and he held the OVW heavyweight title from December 2014 through February 2015 … Has had a long-running feud with Ryan Howe this year … Primary finishing move is the Russian legsweep.

454 **BRUTAL BOB EVANS (6'5", 251, 22, 431)**
Veteran wrestler and trainer is still going strong in ROH and on the New England independent scene … Formed a popular team with Cheeseburger known as "Brutal Burgers" … Competed in the 2014 Killer Kowalski Cup tournament, advancing to the semifinals before losing to Nick Steel … Finisher is The Ugly Stick.

455 **KEKOA (6', 220, 8, NL)**
Exciting aerialist made his return to the ring after almost a year of inactivity following a full tear of his ACL and two surgeries … Long known as "The Flyin' Hawaiian," he has now adopted the moniker "Warrior King" Kekoa … Won the Elite Wrestling (Pennsylvania) heavyweight title … Added an extremely effective spear to his arsenal recently.

456 **SHAYNE HAWKE (5'8", 176, 12, NL)**
Montreal native competed in C4 (Ottawa), NCPW (Quebec City), and CHIKARA … Trained by Dru Onyx, Beef Wellington, and El Generico … Held the IWS Canadian title from May 2014 through May 2015 … Signature moves include the TomaHawke STO, the enzuigiri, and the swinging reverse DDT.

457 **BOBBY SHIELDS (5'10", 202, 13, 366)**
Held the ECWA heavyweight title from June 2014 until December 2014 … Has held the PCW (West Virginia) heavyweight title since March 2014 … Claims to "steal every show I'm on," and that statement is more true than false … Top moves include the Gory Bomb, the 450 splash, and the Liontamer.

458 **BLASTER McMASSIVE (6'5", 245, 3, NL)**
Big man is one-half of Devastation Corporation, managed by the inimitable Sidney Bakabella … Won the CHIKARA tag team title with partner Max Smashmaster and the 2014 CHIKARA King of Trios tournament with Smashmaster and Flex Rumblecrunch … Favorite moves include the Lariat Tubman clothesline and the chokeslam.

459 **RON FALCO (5'10", 225, 12, 443)**
Falco is a Western New York institution … Pitted his strength against Scott Steiner in a singles match in August 2014 … Teamed with Coconut Jones, Chip Stetson, and Brett Mednick this year … Has found himself on the opposite side of the ring against his son, Jordan, who debuted last year.

460 **ANTHONY DARKO (5'10", 189, 15, 337)**
Teams with Jake O'Reilly as The Piss Beaters in Ontario … With O'Reilly, he won the Rock Solid Wrestling tag team title … The team recently began using a backpack senton splash they call "The Jetpack Joyride" as a finisher … Keeps opponents thunderstruck with his Dar-KO Ace cutter … Trained by Tyson Dux and El Tornado.

PHOTO BY ANDREA KELLAWAY/RING OF HONOR

461 TYLER BATEMAN (6'5", 200, 14, NL)

"The Butcher" is a two-time Santino Bros. Wrestling Academy Submission champion … Earned wins over California standouts Scorpio Sky and Fabulous B, and wrestled Willie Mack to a time-limit draw in November 2014.

462 ALEXANDER JAMES (6'1", 205, 5, NL)

Maryland native has been impressive in Combat Zone Wrestling, where he was recognized as "honorary junior heavyweight champion" … Scored an upset win over Rich Swann at CZW's Cage of Death event in December 2014 … Signature moves include the roaring lariat, European uppercut, and stall suplex.

463 CHRIS DICKINSON (5'10", 235, 12, NL)

Garnered national attention earlier this year when he brutally attacked Kimber Lee with a steel chair and then hit her with his trademark Kazuzu Bomb power bomb as she lay barely conscious … Won the JCW Jersey J-Cup Tournament in November 2014 … Won the IWS (Montreal) Canadian title in May … Powerful and sadistic.

464 PETER AVALON (5'10", 165, 6, 469)

California fans may recognize "Pretty Peter" as one-half of PPray (with Ray Rosas), but TNA fans know him better as Norv Fernum … Was granted a shot at the TNA title by Ethan Carter III in June … Won the Insane Wrestling League (California) heavyweight title in April … Finisher is the Marti-Knees double-knee drop bulldog.

465 JAXON JARVIS (6'1", 215, 3, 478)

Hailing from the peaks of "The Mountains Of Masculinity," the Ontario native has an appreciation of the finer things in life … This year held the VCW (Ontario) tag title with T-Rex Atkins, GCW tag title with Brian Youngblood, and the GCW Canadian National title … Also appeared on CBC's *Murdoch Mysteries* as a turn-of-the-century pugilist.

466 COCONUT JONES (6'3", 185, 9, NL)

Popular upstate New Yorker recently became an Upstate Pro Wrestling (Rochester) "grand slam" champion, having won that company's heavyweight, tag team, and No Limits championships … Held the Kayfabe Dojo (Rochester) tag title with Ron Falco … Main finishers include the slingshot spear, tornado DDT, and the Mushroom Stomp.

467 CHRISIFIX (5'9", 197, 10, 473)

"The Lost Son" is going on his fourth year as Wrestlers Alliance Revolution (North Carolina) champion … Has been competing throughout the Carolinas, Tennessee, and Georgia … Signature moves include the F6 (a F5-into-a-Codebreaker) and a unique belly-to-back layout power bomb he calls The F-Bomb … Second-generation wrestler is the son of Christopher "The Golden Greek" Milosopholis.

PHOTO BY SCOTT FINKELSTEIN

468 JERVIS COTTONBELLY (6', 200, 10, NL)

CHIKARA standout claims to be "The World's Sweetest Man" … Boasts singles wins over Eddie Kingston and Chuck Taylor during the evaluation period … Trained by Mike Quackenbush … Pet moves include the vertical suplex and the "Good Enough For Granddad" rolling neck cravat.

469 MR. JUICY (6', 253, 10, 496)

Australian sensation dropped a remarkable 90 pounds and has vastly improved his cardiovascular conditioning and stamina … Became a top title contender in promotions in three different Australian states … Signature moves include the Juicy Elbow from the top rope and Stunner Meal … Has earned comparisons to Colt Cabana and Grado for his mix of comedy and old-fashioned rasslin' prowess.

470 KWAN CHANG (6'2", 256, 17, 412)

"The Asian Nightmare" is a fixture on both sides of the Canadian border, competing primarily in Ontario and New York these days … An expert striker and power merchant, he always keeps his kendo stick within reach, and he isn't afraid to use it … Has been known to spit mysterious Asian mist from time to time.

471 DAMIEN WAYNE (6'1", 220, 13, NL)

Virginia native is a two-time former NWA National champion and a former NWA North American champion … Captured the Vanguard Championship Wrestling U.S. Liberty title with a win over The Reason in October 2014 … Scored a win over Papadon in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, in November 2014 … Finisher is the Black Diamond press powerslam.

472 DICK JUSTICE (5'10", 295, 9, NL)

Meet the cop who can't be stopped … Rochester's resident "Supercop" says he weighs in at "50 stars and 13 stripes" and was born on the Fourth of July … Has become a cult favorite in 2CW, CZW, and AIW … Formed a tag team with Colt Cabana and competed against Grado, Jim Duggan, and Dennis Stamp this year.

473 RIP IMPACT (6', 189, 10, 472)

Hamilton native is one of Ontario's most active wrestlers, having competed in more than 150 matches during the evaluation period … Won the Magnificent Championship Wrestling heavyweight title for a second time … Notable opponents this year included Chris Hero and Seiya Sanada … Finishers are the Ripcord and Sliced Bread #2.

PHOTO BY ICHIBAN DRUNK

474 STEVE STARDOM (5'7", 198, 22, NL)

Flashy veteran beat 480-pound Tiny Love for the UIWF (Wisconsin) heavyweight title in March … Finishing move is the "Stellar Interplanetary Piledriver" … Looks like a combination of Adrian Street and Jeff Jarrett (in his "Ain't I Great" phase) … Trained by Eddie Sharkey, Ken Patera, and Danny Hodge.

475 RICKY RUFFIN (6'1", 238, 6, NL)

Vendetta Pro competitor scored a major win over Greg Anthony this year, which helped him climb up the rankings … Also competes in Gateway Grand Prix and Action Coast Empire (California) … Always performs in his signature vest and bow tie, and loves to spice up his bouts with some fancy dance moves.

476 C.J. O'DOYLE (6', 191, 13, NL)

Irishman is a perennial top contender for the American Combat Wrestling (Florida) heavyweight title … Teams with Sideshow as The Celtic Sinners … Also competes in WXW and I Believe in Wrestling … Trained by Afa and Sika … Signature moves include the big boot to the face and The Celtic Crunch.

477 ADAM RYDER (6'1", 196, 6, NL)

Promising British Columbia native was trained by Lance Storm … Grabbed the All-Star Wrestling cruiserweight title for the second time with a win over Matt XStatic in March … Quick-footed competitor is a superb counter-wrestler with good instincts … Main finishing move is a double-knee gut-buster he calls "The Long Ryde Home."

478 SILENT WARRIOR (6'2", 220, 5, 484)

Western New York native has made multiple tours of Japan, the Philippines, and Hawaii during his brief career … Signature moves include the Silent Sleeper, the power bomb, the Anaconda Vise, and the figure-four leglock … Established the Deaf Wrestling Alliance for fellow deaf wrestlers.

479 JOHN CAMPBELL (6'4", 240, 9, NL)

"The Creature Feature" became the inaugural Imperial Wrestling Entertainment (Michigan) champion in July 2014 … Adopted a more aggressive ring style after losing that title in December … He has begun using a mysterious red mist to incapacitate opponents … Signature moves include the Driller Killer front facelock STO and the Switchblade Engage spider superplex chokeslam.

480 JOHN SAXON (5'9", 220, 24, NL)

Veteran has been on a tear, collecting championships throughout multiple NWA promotions … Defeated Houston Carson for the Lone Star (Texas) heavyweight title in May … Dropped the NWA-Elite heavyweight title to Vordell Walker in October 2014 … Beat Gregory James in a loser-leaves-town match in March.

PHOTO BY UBEL PHOTOGRAPHY

481 BILLY BLADE (6'1", 232, 15, 432)

"The Rock Of Love" is a two-time former Vendetta Pro Wrestling heavyweight champion … Lost to arch-rival Rik Luxury in the opening round of the NWA Western States title tournament in January … Came up short in VPW title match against Lil Cholo in June … Finisher is the Nosferatu Driver.

482 CHRIS PERISH (5'9", 195, 11, 495)

Canadian had a banner year, winning the 2015 Leo Burke Cup, Monster Pro Wrestling (Edmonton) tag team and Provincial championships, and the Pure Power Wrestling cruiserweight title … Feuded with Massive Damage and Jack Hammer in MPW … Finishing move is the Perishute, a modified TKO.

483 BARRY HARDY (6'1", 230, 28, 491)

"The Bad Boy" was recently profiled on rollingstone.com for his 1980s prelim tag team with Duane Gill in a series called "Don't Call Me A Jobber" … Began competing under a mask after suffering facial burns caused by a fireball … Holds tag titles with Thunder Morgan in Maryland and West Virginia.

484 PINKY SANTINO (6'4", 300, 5, NL)

"The Emo Behemoth" is one of California's most unique wrestlers … Contended for both the Championship Wrestling From Hollywood TV title and the Santino Bros. Wrestling heavyweight title this year … Innovated the Choke to Sleep, a chokeslam into a Go to Sleep … Represents the "nobodies" of the world, inspiring them to achieve their goals.

485 T-REX ATKINS (5'11", 251, 10, NL)

Rawboned competitor is a throwback to the hard-hitting, gritty grapplers of the 1970s … Ontario native also competes in New York and Pennsylvania … Main finisher is the gut-wrench facebuster … Loves to beat people up, then relax with a cold beer or three.

486 THE STRO (6'1", 245, 25, 466)

Former WCW competitor has now been wrestling a quarter-century, and he shows no sign of slowing down … Still regularly wrestles throughout the Mid-Atlantic independent scene … Has dabbled in acting, appearing in the movies *The Invited* and *Bite School* … Main moves include the bearhug DDT and an STF he calls "The Encore."

487 CHUCK DEEP (5'10", 200, 15, NL)

Calls himself "The Lord Of the Lats" and the "Toast Of The Coast" … Upstate New York veteran is locked in an ugly feud with former tag team partner "Bad" Brad Wesley … Notable opponents include Brutus Beefcake and The Boogeyman ... Main moves are the enzuigiri and a flying bulldog off the second rope.

488 DEXTER MILHOUSE (5'10", 187, 4, NL)

Don't let the wimpy name fool you—Dexter Milhouse, despite his suspenders and black-rimmed glasses, is not a wrestler to take lightly … Won the Alpha Omega Wrestling (California) Desert title in a November 2014 "I Quit" against The American Oni, claiming he would have retired if he had lost.

489 MAXIMO SUAVE (5'9", 185, 10, NL)

Upstate New York-based competitor has been paying his dues for a decade … Scored the biggest win of his career by defeating former tag team partner Coconut Jones for the Upstate Pro Wrestling (Rochester) heavyweight title in May … Won the Rochester Rumble battle royal in September 2014.

490 MATTHEW PALMER (5'9", 180, 7, NL)

Known both as "The Centerfold" and "The Showstealer," Palmer has been making a big impact on the Texas independent scene … Won the Metroplex Wrestling (Texas) title from Jerome Daniels in May … Trained by Lance Hoyt, Bob Evans, and Wally Darkmon … Pet moves include the The Fold-Out Choke-Out and The Snapshot.

491 RICHIE SLADE (5'9", 171, 4, NL)

California-based grappler has held the Empire Wrestling Federation American title twice and the AOW (California) heavyweight title … Also wresttled in Vendetta Pro, Apex Pro, and Grind House … Signature moves include a version of the Sliced Bread #2 he calls "The Stage Dive" and the inverted DDT.

492 ARRICK ANDREWS (6', 225, 14, NL)

"The Dragon" is a rising star in the NWA … Earned a title shot against then-NWA heavyweight champion Rob Conway after scoring wins over former champion Kahagas and Sabu … Has held the NWA Southern heavyweight title, the SWA heavyweight title, and the ACW heavyweight title … Main moves are the double-arm DDT and 540-kick.

493 BLACKJACK PHOENIX (6'4", 290, 18, 467)

Former ESW (Buffalo) heavyweight champion has rediscovered his killer instinct and is making life miserable for fan favorites as he looks to regain his title … Lost a violent bullrope match to ESW champion Bill Collier in April … Feuded with Gabe Saint and Johnny Adams this year.

494 STOMPIN' STEVE (6'7", 345, 4, NL)

Gentle giant can be dangerous when riled … Won the Hoosier Pro Wrestling intergender tag team title with "Lovely" Lylah Lodge … Has had mixed-tag rivalries with Lufisto/Dash Venture and Mad Man Pondo/Mary Dobson … Finishers are the chokeslam, sidewalk slam, and legdrop.

495 KAY JUTLER (5'9", 196, 11, NL)

Self-professed "Male Model" claims to be "The Face Of NWA-New Breed Wrestling," the NWA-affiliated promotion in the United Kingdom … Jutler is a three-time New Breed heavyweight champion … Former bodybuilder is grounded in the British catch-as-catch-can style … Previously feuded with Harry Smith and Doug Williams … Finisher is the Falcon Arrow.

PHOTO BY ANDREA KELLAWAY/RING OF HONOR

496 CHEESEBURGER (5'8", 136, 3, 480)

ROH cult favorite doesn't have many wins to his credit, but he regularly competes against some of the top names in the company and regularly comes close to stealing upsets … Competed in the WIF Young Lions Cup Tournament, but was eliminated in the opening round … Trained by Delirious.

497 THE HOBO (5'10", 189, 6, NL)

"The Boxcar Superstar" reigned as the Championship Wrestling From Hollywood Heritage titlist from August 2014 through February, when he was upended by Yuma … Hails from Hoboken, New Jersey, but found his niche on the West Coast … Charismatic competitor finishes opponents with his Street Preacher, a back suplex into a uranage suplex.

498 DEWEY MURRAY (6'1", 255, 12, NL)

Made a name for himself by doing comedy parodies of other wrestlers, but no one can doubt his fighting spirit … Based in Upstate New York, he currently is known as "The Real Mutha Trucka" … Had lengthy feuds with Hellcat and Hacksaw Jim Duggan this year.

499 BRANDON LOCKE (6', 220, 12, NL)

"The Real Deal" is a New England veteran … Beat Sean Burke for the Chaotic Wrestling New England title in May … Defeated the legendary Kevin Sullivan in a wild falls-count-anywhere match in March … Signature move is a variation of the Alabama Slam he calls "The Lockedown."

500 SPACE MONKEY (5'9", 161, 1, NL)

Monkey-masked man claims to be a simian sent to space by NASA, and returned to earth with an innate ability to wrestle … A crowd favorite in Ontario, where he competes for Superkick'd, C*4, and Alpha-1 … Wears a space suit with a lengthy tail … Finisher is the Banana Split cartwheel splash.

ALPHABETICAL RANKING

112 Abyss
58 ACH
406 Acid Jaz
274 Aero Boy
166 Aero Star
444 AHTU
88 Akebono
264 Akito
150 Jun Akiyama
347 Gran Akuma
9 Alberto El Patron
85 Cedric Alexander
13 Dean Ambrose
353 Americos
226 Enzo Amore
79 Karl Anderson
118 Mr. Anderson
492 Arrick Andrews
159 Angel de Oro
117 Angelico
25 Kurt Angle
372 Lance Anoi'a
341 Greg Anthony
376 Robert Anthony
224 Steve Anthony
92 Lance Archer
296 Argenis/Barrio Negro
50 Austin Aries
420 Chris Aros
308 Asylum
485 T-Rex Atkins
313 Atlantis
464 Peter Avalon
142 Curtis Axel
324 Mike Bailey
28 Finn Balor
408 Brent Banks
105 Trent Barreta
20 King Barrett
461 Tyler Bateman
294 B-Boy
401 Milo Beasley
443 Beer City Bruiser
358 Buxx Belmar
407 Kevin Bennett
82 Michael Bennett
210 Bestia 666
44 Big E
177 Big Ryck
36 Big Show
126 PJ Black
481 Billy Blade
121 Blake
259 BLK Jeez
146 Blue Demon Jr.
292 Dylan Bostic
311 Steve Boz
124 Bram
342 Harlem Bravado
331 Lance Bravado
61 Tyler Breeze
365 Wes Brisco
7 Jay Briscoe
70 Mark Briscoe
14 Daniel Bryan
122 Rey Bucanero
129 Bully Ray
320 Matt Burns
204 Biff Busick
59 BxB Hulk
157 Colt Cabana
78 Cage
479 John Campbell
278 Arik Cannon
297 Carlito
351 Sean Carr
336 Houston Carson
30 Ethan Carter III
281 Negro Casas
206 Colin Cassady
221 Dalton Castle
325 Barbaro Cavernario
2 John Cena
41 Cesaro
470 Kwan Chang
496 Cheeseburger
219 Chicano
396 Lil Cholo
467 Chrisifix
133 Tommaso Ciampa
435 Francisco Ciatso
238 CIMA
375 RJ City
439 James Claxton
269 Jeff Cobb
39 Adam Cole
209 Caprice Coleman
332 Bill Collier
309 Alex Colon
83 Rob Conway
418 Chris Cooper
86 Baron Corbin
282 Darrin Corbin
468 Jervis Cottonbelly
152 Crazzy Steve
306 Dave Crist
312 Jake Crist
127 Matt Cross
250 Solomon Crowe
436 Jay Cruz
63 King Cuerno
394 Collin Cutler
156 Bo Dallas
379 Damien 666
140 Jax Dane
64 Christopher Daniels
460 Anthony Darko
268 Cody Deaner
487 Chuck Deep
262 Colin Delaney
385 Chase Del Monte
263 Bull Dempsey
419 Johnny Devine
451 Eddie Diamond
463 Chris Dickinson
160 Diego
253 J. Diesel
216 Donovan Dijak
328 Tye Dillinger
399 Jake Dirden
108 Joe Doering
176 Naruki Doi
370 Lince Dorado
476 CJ Doyle
125 Drago
196 Eli Drake
377 Dylan Drake
303 Tommy Dreamer
416 Thomas Dubois
315 Sonjay Dutt
239 Tyson Dux
427 Rico Dynamite
149 Robbie E
75 Eddie Edwards
43 Michael Elgin
163 Tommy End
261 Aiden English
339 Aaron Epic
174 Rey Escorpion
362 Brandon Espinosa
381 Marko Estrada
266 Brutal Bob Evans
454 Jack Evans
368 Andrew Everett
393 Greg Excellent
234 Façade
459 Ron Falco
90 Bad Luck Fale
314 Famous B
183 Fandango
162 Fenix
161 Fernando
220 Will Ferrara
447 David Finlay Jr.
45 Bobby Fish
99 A.R. Fox
321 Hayato Fujita
276 Masakatsu Funaki
371 Joe Gacy
37 Drew Galloway
73 Doc Gallows
109 Johnny Gargano
233 Gedo
307 Rhett Giddins
164 Jessie Godderz
89 Goldust
329 Johnny Goodtime
271 Jason Gory
256 Simon Gotch
76 Hirooki Goto
366 Zack Gowen
392 Grado
283 Stu Grayson
318 Chavo Guerrero
198 Ultimo Guerrero
132 Drew Gulak
134 Gunner
242 Charlie Haas
327 Hallowicked
426 Nick Hammonds
442 BJ Hancock
387 Hannibal
241 Hanson
201 Harashima
483 Barry Hardy
47 Jeff Hardy
74 Matt Hardy
24 Luke Harper
322 Teddy Hart
184 Shane Haste
284 Danny Havoc
357 Jimmy Havoc
456 Shayne Hawke
139 Luke Hawx
289 Kaz Hayashi
390 Hellcat
130 Mark Henry
243 Hernandez
104 Chris Hero
497 The Hobo
302 Corey Hollis
260 Tomoaki Honma
202 Rey Horas
280 DJ Hyde
40 Kota Ibushi
364 Icarus
473 Rip Impact
360 Gregory Iron
110 Tomohiro Ishii
225 Shuji Ishikawa
355 AJ Istria
38 Hideo Itami
380 Jag Hartley Jackson
66 Matt Jackson
67 Nick Jackson
240 Jado
462 Alexander James
448 Gregory James
337 Jaxson James
182 Jeff Jarrett
465 Jaxon Jarvis
414 Jeckles the Jester
84 Chris Jericho
466 Coconut Jones
277 Jason Jordan
469 Mr. Juicy
472 Dick Justice
495 Kay Jutler
195 Kahagas
186 KAI

25TH ANNUAL PWI 500

120	Kalisto
51	Kane
319	Yoshinobu Kanemaru
431	Kai Katana
69	Frankie Kazarian
455	Kekoa
248	Brian Kendrick
279	Kenou
326	KENSO
179	Khoya
53	Tyson Kidd
388	BC Killer
231	Jason Kincaid
106	Kenny King
386	Eddie Kingston
52	Kofi Kingston
291	Roy Knight
295	Zak Knight
98	Satoshi Kojima
272	Isami Kodaka
290	Shuji Kondo
449	Kongo Kong
391	Caleb Konley
151	Konnor
333	JR Kratos
405	Jody Kristofferson
299	KUDO
34	KUSHIDA
252	Kzy
18	Bobby Lashley
350	Trevor Lee
17	Jay Lethal
230	Jushin Liger
410	El Ligero
499	Brandon Locke
97	Low-Ki
287	Lucky 13
437	Luster the Legend
415	Rik Luxury
411	Tommy Mack
346	Willie Mack
71	Magnus
128	Togi Makabe
304	Ricky Mandel
213	Mandrews
147	Manik
417	Lou Marconi
428	El Mariachi
48	Naomichi Marufuji
173	MASADA
397	Shane Matthews
57	Maximo
348	John McChesney
458	Blaster McMassive
207	Chris Melendez
169	Mephisto
345	Angel Metalico
258	Brian Meyers
188	Micah
488	Dexter Milhouse
212	Mistico
194	Kento Miyahara
288	Yuko Miyamoto
60	The Miz
334	Masaaki Mochizuki
301	Devon Moore
154	Moose
235	Mr. 450
26	Mil Muertes
32	Johnny Mundo
116	Murphy
498	Dewey Murray
228	Keiji Muto
91	MVP
131	Myzteziz
138	Yuji Nagata
80	Tetsuya Naito
5	Shinsuke Nakamura
389	Napalm Bomb
363	Negro Navarro
265	Tony Nese
15	Adrian Neville
185	Mikey Nicholls
293	Yuji Okabayashi
27	Kazuchika Okada
54	Kenny Omega
171	Titus O'Neil
367	Dru Onyx
450	Jake O'Reilly
35	Kyle O'Reilly
6	Randy Orton
254	Aiden O'Shea
352	Scotty O'Shea
222	Chase Owens
10	Kevin Owens
190	Adam Page
305	Ethan Page
490	Matthew Palmer
199	Papadon
193	LA Park
402	Scott Parker
232	Pepper Parks
95	Pentagon Jr.
482	Chris Perish
493	Blackjack Phoenix
378	Phoenix Star
286	Player Uno
404	Mad Man Pondo
323	Psycho Clown
16	Prince Puma
424	Danny Ramons
330	Chasyn Rance
192	Mojo Rawley
4	Roman Reigns
453	Adam Revolver
217	Ricky Reyes
430	Alex Reynolds
145	Rhino
55	Davey Richards
251	Stevie Richards
429	Jay Rios
227	Matt Riviera
413	Marshe Rockett
113	Rockstar Spud
434	Jesus Rodriguez
1	Seth Rollins
208	The Romantic Touch
103	Rocky Romero
22	Bobby Roode
356	Ray Rosas
187	Adam Rose
111	Erick Rowan
203	Raymond Rowe
94	R-Truth
475	Ricky Ruffin
8	Rusev
223	Joey Ryan
29	Ryback
168	Adam Ryder
477	Zack Ryder
135	Chris Sabin
446	Shane Sabre
165	Zack Sabre Jr.
425	Gabe Saint
46	Samoa Joe
136	Sanada
93	Damien Sandow
484	Pinky Santino
236	Kohei Sato
480	John Saxon
257	Scorpio Sky
445	Brandon Scott
412	Kyle Sebastian
115	Daisuke Sekimoto
205	El Sensacional Carlitos
382	Ali Shabazz
422	Bobby Sharp
247	Samuel Shaw
42	Sheamus
143	Alex Shelley
123	Katsuyori Shibata
457	Bobby Shields
31	Go Shiozaki
344	Thomas Shire
285	Shocker
478	Silent Warrior
441	John Silver
229	Chris Silvio
100	Sin Cara
354	El Siniestro de la Muerte
237	Ashley Sixx
298	John Skyler
491	Richie Slade
189	Heath Slater
452	Max Smashmaster
81	Davey Boy Smith Jr.
383	Eddie Smooth
373	Solar
395	Solo
155	La Sombra
359	Jessy Sorensen
500	Space Monkey
474	Steve Stardom
65	Stardust
245	David Starr
361	Chet Sterling
423	Mathieu St-Jacques
400	Stockade
494	Stompin' Steve
56	James Storm
200	Tim Storm
340	Shane Strickland
486	The Stro
62	Roderick Strong
3	AJ Styles
374	Maximo Suave
489	Sebastian Suave
211	Takashi Sugiura
398	Super Fly
158	SUSHI
101	Suwama
181	Hideki Suzuki
178	Kotaro Suzuki
19	Minoru Suzuki
137	Jack Swagger
119	Rich Swann
421	Rob Sweet
114	Matt Sydal
102	Ryusuke Taguchi
310	Taichi
255	Shingo Takagi
11	Hiroshi Tanahashi
218	Masato Tanaka
249	Tarik
403	Michael Tarver
275	Ryan Taylor
438	Chaz Taylor
96	Matt Taven
273	Chuck Taylor
68	Hiroyoshi Tenzan
107	El Terrible
87	Texano Jr.
300	Timothy Thatcher
153	T-Hawk
432	Adam Thornstowe
433	Brandon Thurston
180	Tigre Uno
409	Travis Toxic
267	Akira Tozawa
343	Trauma 1
349	Trauma 2
244	Matt Tremont
214	Tyrus
197	Uhaa Nation
270	Ultimo Dragon
246	Mighty Ursas
72	Jey Uso
49	Jimmy Uso
148	Viktor
144	Volador Jr.
335	Josef Von Schmidt
170	Dr. Wagner Jr.
440	Kirk Warmack
471	Damien Wayne
172	B.J. Whitmer
338	Byron Wilcott
77	Xavier Woods
21	Bray Wyatt
369	Jeremy Wyatt
167	Yamato
316	Toru Yano
141	Masato Yoshino
33	Darren Young
175	Eric Young
215	Silas Young
317	Johnny Yuma
191	DJ Z
23	Sami Zayn
12	Dolph Ziggler
384	Zokre

DAN MURPHY'S TAKE

25 YEARS AND GOING STRONG

FOR A QUARTER of a century, the writers and editors of this magazine have undertaken the yearly task of ranking the top 500 wrestlers in the world. Every year, our list generates controversy and debate. I can almost hear some of the critics now: "How in the world can Rusev be ranked in the Top 10?" "Why is Sheamus so far down at 42?" "The Miz is two spots higher than Roderick Strong? Blasphemy!"

Wrestling fans are passionate. That's a good thing. We're passionate about wrestling, too … after all, the writers and editors here are *PWI* are all fans, too.

In compiling our list, we evaluate the sport's participants over a 12-month period, this year spanning July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015. Achievements before or after that date are not part of our evaluation. Within that 12-month span, Rusev was an undefeated monster who steamrolled the competition, Cesaro was in a mid-card tag team, and Miz was a prominent WWE star while Strong was recovering from a career-threatening injury.

The *"PWI* 500" isn't a ranking of the best pure wrestlers of the year. It's not a list of our favorite wrestlers. Trust me, both of those lists would look very different … and each member of the editorial team would have a vastly different list.

The beauty of the *"PWI* 500"—and the reason it has continued to has grow in importance after 25 years—is that it is compiled by a group of passionate staff members. Positions are debated. The ranking sessions take hours, followed by hundreds of back-and-forth e-mails and phone calls. We discuss what each wrestler has achieved, whether they deserve to be ranked, and where they should be slotted. We don't limit ourselves to the national promotions, or even the most prominent independent promotions. Whenever I attend an indy card, I bring a notebook and take notes on wrestlers who might deserve consideration. I get e-mails from promoters, referees, and veteran wrestlers sending me YouTube clips of guys they feel deserve a look. My colleagues, Stu Saks, Al Castle, Mike Bessler, Harry Burkett, Brady Hicks, and Kevin McElvaney, all do the same. We compare notes and, gradually, over the period of several months, the *"PWI* 500" comes together.

We take it seriously. We are fully aware that the *"PWI* 500" means a lot to most of the wrestlers ranked. Last year, Grado got the 500 spot, and he was signed by TNA a few months later. Coincidence? I don't think so.

The "500" isn't perfect. Like any ambitious project on a tight deadline, mistakes can be made. But everyone who helps create the 500—from the writers and editors to the art department and photographers—takes pride in this issue. There's nothing else like it anywhere.

PHOTO BY STU SAKS

In determining whether or not Rusev deserves his number-eight ranking, the entirety of what he accomplished during the evaluation period of July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015, has to be considered. We expect criticism of the "500," but we'd hope people would understand our criteria and the time frame for evaluation.

AL CASTLE'S TAKE

A BROADENING LANDSCAPE

WITH TNA FACING an uncertain future a year ago that included possibly losing its cable television home, I pondered this question in my "Take" on the 2014 *"PWI* 500": What would our 2015 Top 10 list look like if TNA were no longer around?

One year later, TNA is still facing an uncertain future that, once again, includes possibly losing its cable television home. But, somehow, it is still around. Nevertheless, I got the answer to my question.

You'll have to scan all the way down to number 18 to find the first TNA wrestler ranked in this year's list. It's the lowest we've ever ranked TNA's top wrestler since the company debuted in the "500" in 2003.

In 2010, AJ Styles even achieved the number-one ranking while working for TNA. Three years later, TNA President Dixie Carter let him go after he wouldn't accept a pay cut.

As was the case with our decision to no longer recognize the TNA heavyweight championship as a world title, our placement of TNA's wrestlers in this year's "500" is sure to upset many of the company's fans and employees. But like most of TNA's shortfalls, this one should not be viewed as a reflection of its talent, which consistently comprises one of the hardest-working rosters in recent wrestling history.

Rather, TNA's disappointing showing in this year's "500" is the result of management missteps and the challenges they've created in the company's 13th year.

Those challenges include: a depleted roster that has lessened each wrestler's quality of competition; a shrinking audience that has marginalized TNA's place in the global wrestling landscape; and, perhaps most importantly, a drastically scaled-back schedule that has considerably limited the activity of most TNA wrestlers.

Consider this: Bobby Lashley, TNA's top-ranked wrestler, held the heavyweight championship twice during the evaluation period, but wrestled on just 28 dates—the equivalent of less than two months' work for the average WWE performer. TNA's closest competitor, ROH, held nearly 50 events during that period.

PHOTO BY LEE SOUTH/TNA WRESTLING

TNA's first entry in this year's "500" is Bobby Lashley, all the way down at number 18. Lashley and other TNA wrestlers would likely have fared better had TNA had more dates during the evaluation period.

ROH has gained ground in many other ways. While TNA has struggled to attract 300 people to free TV tapings, ROH is regularly drawing 1,000-plus paying fans to its shows. It's more evidence that ROH is truly the new "number two" in the U.S., and will likely continue to be well-represented in future "500" Top 10 lists.

And so, while my forecast for TNA's showing in this year's *"PWI* 500" may have been realized, my fear over what that might mean was not. A year ago I worried that a TNA-free wrestling landscape would give most mainstream American wrestling fans few viable alternatives to WWE.

Even as WWE's market share is more plentiful than ever, so too are the options for fans looking to watch quality wrestling on television. This year's Top 10 is evidence of that. While TNA may not be represented, ROH, Lucha Underground, NJPW, and NXT all are.

Hopefully, those promotions and, perhaps, TNA itself, will keep WWE from sweeping the Top 10 and beyond in future years, and also give non-WWE talent places to work. Like wrestling fans, they, too, deserve some options.

HARRY BURKETT'S TAKE

THE WOMEN'S DILEMMA

NICOLE MATTHEWS, SEXY Star, and Santana Garrett all scored wins over men in the past year, so should they be ranked in the "*PWI* 500"?

Matthews defeated Bishop for the ECCW title in Vancouver, Star beat Superfly and Pentagon Jr. in Lucha Underground, and Garrett—the current NWA Women's champ—scored wins over men (Josh Hess in Full-Impact Pro, for example) and was often the difference-maker in several six-person tag team bouts. In what has become a growing trend, many women earned victories over men this year.

PHOTO COURTESY OF EL REY NETWORK

Sexy Star is indeed sexy and a star, but in spite of her success against Lucha Undergound males such as Pentagon Jr., she is not ranked in this year's "*PWI* 500." You will probably find her in a prominent spot in next issue's "Female 50," however.

We've ranked women before. Miss Texas (Jacqueline Moore) became the first woman to be ranked in 1993, due to her Memphis feud with Jamie Dundee. Madd Maxxine, who held the PWF junior heavyweight belt in the Carolinas, was included from 1995 to 1997. Chyna beat Jeff Jarrett for the WWF Intercontinental title in 1999 to gain entry and was ranked again in 2000. Sara Del Rey wrestled men consistently—scoring wins over stars in Ring of Honor and CHIKARA—to be ranked in 2012.

This year, the staff at *PWI* debated the entire concept of ranking women in the "500."

As part of our intense e-mail-thread debate, Contributing Writer Kevin McElvaney made the most passionate case for continuing to include women in the "500." Noted McElvaney, "The '*PWI* 500' isn't the '*PWI* Male 500'; it's the top 500 wrestlers in the world. The women get their own list? By transitive property, this looks like we're implying women are inferior wrestlers. I don't see any good coming from that whatsoever."

Any separate-but-equal policy justifiably comes under scrutiny in our society. On the flip side, we could argue that we're elevating the prestige of the "Female 50" by saying, in our editorial point of view, those rankings are just as important as the "500"—and we're giving women more of a platform with the "Female 50" rather than burying them in the "500" with so many male competitors. After all, we must recognize that male wrestlers outnumber female wrestlers by a huge margin.

"Unless it's something spectacular and consistent, I don't think we should be including women in the '500,'" said Senior Writer Dan Murphy, an ardent women's wrestling supporter and the driving force behind both the "500" and the "F-50" rankings. "It's too gimmicky. Plus, it's a bit of a fad. Promoters are putting girls in against guys because it's easier than bringing in another girl. I don't think that should necessarily be rewarded."

Senior Writer Al Castle also made a valid point: "There's nothing saying the 'F-50' should only consider women wrestling women," meaning that victories over males will be considered when ranking women on the female list.

Publisher Stu Saks reminds me that the general exclusion of women from the "500" is not written in stone. If a woman somehow managed to win the WWE World title, we may be forced to reconsider.

I've given Kevin's take, Dan's take, Al's take, and Stu's take. So what's my take? Compiling the "500" is no easy task!

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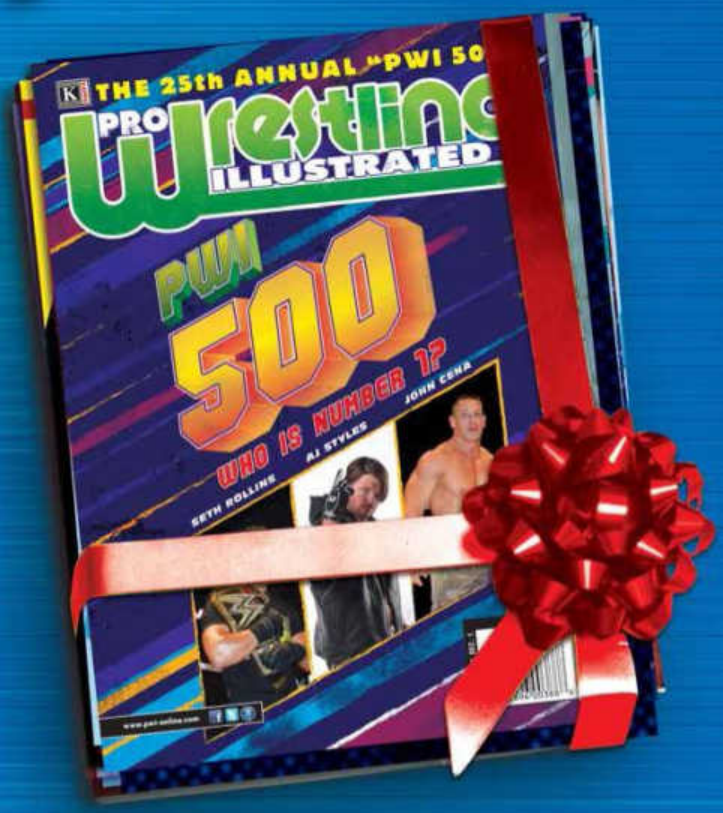

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PWI OFFICIAL RATINGS

FOR PERIOD ENDED
AUGUST 4, 2015

TOP 10

1. **SETH ROLLINS**
   217, Davenport, IA
   (1) WWE World heavyweight champion
2. **JOHN CENA**
   251, West Newbury, MA
   (2) WWE U.S. champion
3. **KAZUCHIKA OKADA**
   240, Tokyo, Japan
   (-) IWGP heavyweight champion
4. **ROMAN REIGNS**
   265, Pensacola, FL
   (3) No. 1 contender WWE World title
5. **JAY LETHAL**
   225, Elizabeth, NJ
   (-) ROH heavyweight champion
6. **RANDY ORTON**
   245, St. Louis, MO
   (8) No. 2 contender WWE World title
7. **KEVIN OWENS**
   266, Marieville, QC
   (6) No. 3 contender WWE World title
8. **ETHAN CARTER III**
   225, Cleveland, OH
   (10) TNA heavyweight champion
9. **RYBACK**
   291, Las Vegas, NV
   (9) WWE Intercontinental champion
10. **FINN BALOR**
    190, Bray, Ireland
    (-) NXT heavyweight champion

PHOTO BY SCOTT FINKELSTEIN

KAZUCHIKA OKADA

TAG TEAMS

1. **CHRISTOPHER DANIELS & FRANKIE KAZARIAN**
   Combined weight: 439 pounds
   (2) ROH tag team champions
2. **DARREN YOUNG & TITUS O'NEIL**
   Combined weight: 509 pounds
   (10) WWE World tag team champions
3. **KARL ANDERSON & DOC GALLOWS**
   Combined weight: 545 pounds
   (-) IWGP tag team champions
4. **DAVEY RICHARDS & EDDIE EDWARDS**
   Combined weight: 416 pounds
   (-) TNA tag team champions
5. **DAVEY BOY SMITH JR. & LANCE ARCHER**
   Combined weight: 520 pounds
   (6) NWA/GHC tag team champions
6. **NICK & MATT JACKSON**
   Combined weight: 350 pounds
   (5) PWG/IWGP jr. heavyweight tag team champions
7. **GO SHIOZAKI & KENTO MIYAHARA**
   Combined weight: 465 pounds
   (7) All Japan tag team champions
8. **BIG E & KOFI KINGSTON & XAVIER WOODS**
   Combined weight: 702 pounds
   (1) No. 1 contenders WWE World tag team title
9. **MICHAEL BENNETT & MATT TAVEN**
   Combined weight: 444 pounds
   (3) No. 1 contenders ROH tag team title
10. **SIN CARA & KALISTO**
    Combined weight: 375 pounds
    (8) No. 2 contenders WWE World tag team title

WWE

WWE World Heavyweight Champion:
SETH ROLLINS
(C) 217, Davenport, IA

1—JOHN CENA
(1) 251, West Newbury, MA
2—ROMAN REIGNS
(2) 265, Pensacola, FL
3—RANDY ORTON
(4) 245, St. Louis, MO
4—KEVIN OWENS
(-) 266, Marieville, QC
5—RYBACK
(5) 291, Las Vegas, NV
6—SHEAMUS
(8) 267, Dublin, Ireland
7—CESARO
(-) 232, Lucerne, Switzerland
8—BIG SHOW
(10) 425, Tampa, FL
9—DEAN AMBROSE
(6) 225, Cincinnati, OH
10—RUSEV
(-) 304, Plovdiv, Bulgaria
11—NEVILLE
(7) 194, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Eng.
12—BRAY WYATT
(11) 285, Brooksville, FL
13—CHRIS JERICHO
(-) 227, Winnipeg, MB
14—DOLPH ZIGGLER
(9) 221, Hollywood, CA
15—KING BARRETT
(15) 246, Manchester, England
16—STARDUST
(14) 220, Charlotte, NC
17—R-TRUTH
(13) 220, Charlotte, NC
18—MARK HENRY
(-) 399, Silsbee, TX
19—KANE
(12) 323, Jefferson City, TN
20—JIMMY USO
(17) 251, San Francisco, CA

TNA

Champion:
ETHAN CARTER III
(1) 225, Cleveland, OH

1—DREW GALLOWAY
(7) 247, Ayr, Scotland
2—MATT HARDY
(-) 235, Cameron, NC
3—BOBBY ROODE
(5) 225, New York, NY
4—LASHLEY
(2) 273, Denver, CO
5—AUSTIN ARIES
(4) 202, Milwaukee, WI
6—PJ BLACK
(-) 213, Cape Town, S. Africa
7—ELI DRAKE
(-) 229, Los Angeles, CA
8—MICAH
(-) 230, Honolulu, HI
9—ERIC YOUNG
(6) 225, Vancouver, BC
10—BRAM
(9) 214, King's Lynn, England

ROH

Champion:
JAY LETHAL
(1) 225, Elizabeth, NJ

1—JAY BRISCOE
(C) 234, Sandy Fork, DE
2—RODERICK STRONG
(2) 212, New Orleans, LA
3—MICHAEL ELGIN
(3) 265, Toronto, ON
4—ADAM COLE
(5) 205, Panama City, FL
5—BOBBY FISH
(6) 200, Albany, NY
6—CHRISTOPHER DANIELS
(-) 224, Los Angeles, CA
7—CAPRICE COLEMAN
(-) 213, T-Town, NC
8—CEDRIC ALEXANDER
(-) 209, Charlotte, NC
9—MATT SYDAL
(9) 165, St. Louis, MO
10—MARK BRISCOE
(4) 229, Sandy Fork, DE

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or tag team. These ratings are compiled by a committee consisting of Stu Saks, Dan Murphy, Kris Zellner, Harry Burkett, Louie Dee, and STRIGGA (cagematch.net, purolove.com). The numbers in parentheses indicate a wrestler's position in that category last issue. Agate-sized ratings are supplied to PWI by promoters and can be e-mailed to us at pwiresults@yahoo.com (please put the word "ratings" in the subject line).

AMERICAN INDEPENDENT WRESTLING FEDERATIONS: CHAMPION– Damien Wayne; **1**–Lodi; **2**–Josef Von Schmidt; **3**–John Green; **4**–Chris Styles; **5**–Justin Overstreet ; **6**–Ganon Jones; **7**–Chance Prophet ; **8**–Lighting Bolt Johnson; **9**–Jagged Edge ; **10**–Grizz

BIG WEST WRESTLING: CHAMPION– Mike Shreddz; **1**–Bishop; **2**–Black Dragon; **3**–Sugar Shane; **4**–Shotgun Stevens; **5**–Collin Cutler; **6**–Michael More; **7**–Adam Ryder; **8**–Slave; **9**–Marty Sugar; **10**–Hellion

ELITE PRO WRESTLING ALLIANCE: CHAMPION– Robbie Paige; **1**–Jake Davis; **2**–The Patriot; **3**–Rhino; **4**–Eddie Page; **5**–Brandon Scott; **6**–Jason Radatz; **7**–Sonjay Dutt; **8**–Bodie Williams; **9**–Vince Vega; **10**–Leslie Leatherman

I BELIEVE IN WRESTLING: CHAMPION– Rhett Giddins **1**–Aaron Epic; **2**–Chasyn Rance **3**–Lince Dorado; **4**–Jesus Rodriguez; **5**–Jonny Vandal; **6**–Tommy Taylor; **7**– Chico Adams; **8**–Josh Hess; **9**–Josh Parker; **10**–Colin Cambridge

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE: CHAMPION– Hiroyoshi Tenzan; **1**–Tim Storm; **2**–Arrick Andrews; **3**–Shinsuke Nakamura; **4**–Rob Conway; **5**–Hiroshi Tanahashi; **6**–Jason Kincaid; **7**–Matt Riviera; **8**–John Saxon; **9**–Badd Blood; **10**–Houston Carson

NORTHEAST WRESTLING: CHAMPION– Matt Taven; **1**–Alberto El Patron **2**–Matt Taven; **3**–Rey Mysterio Jr.; **4**–Dijak; **5**–Brian Anthony; **6**–John Morrison; **7**–Jerry Lawler **8**–Warbeard Hanson; **9**–Caleb Konley; **10**–Michael Bennett

NATIONAL INDEPENDENT CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: CHAMPION– Col. Spud Wade; **1**–Ken Steel; **2**–Scott Lee; **3**–Thunder Morgan; **4**–Se7en; **5**–Barry Hardy; **6**–Larry Cooter; **7**–Jimmy Lee; **8**–Damien James; **9**–Shaun Fatal; **10**–John Heartbreak

PLATINUM CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: CHAMPION– The Washington Bullets; **1**–Shane Marx; **2**–Carpenter **3**–Johnny Danger; **4**–Bill the Butcher; **5**–Devlin Valek; **6**–Geter; **7**–Marko Polo; **8**–Brian Blaze; **9**–Supernatural; **10**–Brian Kane

RENEGADE WRESTLING ALLIANCE: CHAMPION– Jimmy Cicero; **1**–Nick Estaban Taylor; **2**–Danny Able; **3**–Mempho MOFO; **4**–Shane Andrews; **5**–Akuma; **6**–Jun Hado; **7**–Stryder; **8**–Ryan Edmonds; **9**–Jason Gory; **10**–G-RaVeR

SHINE WRESTLING: CHAMPION– Santana Garrett; **1**–Allysin Kay; **2**–Ivelisse Velez; **3**–Vanessa Kraven; **4**–Jessicka Havok; **5**–Madison Eagles; **6**–Mia Yim; **7**–Malia Hosaka; **8**–Leva Bates; **9**–Amber Gallows; **10**–La Rosa Negra

UNITED PRO WRESTLING ASSOCIATION: CHAMPION– Mason Ryan; **1**–Mikal Mosley; **2**–Mike Orlando; **3**–Pete Nixon; **4**–Barbarian; **5**–The Stro; **6**–Tito Santana; **7**–Steven Strick; **8**–Shaheem Ali; **9**–Brandon Scott; **10**–LA Tank

UPROAR PRO WRESTLING: CHAMPION– Leo Brien; **1**–Mike Reed; **2**–Torcher; **3**–Shawn Prime; **4**–Mason Ryan; **5**–SeVer; **6**–Lex Lovett; **7**–Donovan; **8**–Edward Malken; **9**–Oliver Cain; **10**–Jason Cade

NXT

Champion:
FINN BALOR
(1) 190, Bray, Ireland

1—**KEVIN OWENS**
(C) 266, Marieville, QC
2—**BARON CORBIN**
(3) 275, Lenexa, KS
3—**TYLER BREEZE**
(2) 195, Penticton, BC
4—**SAMOA JOE**
(10) 289, American Samoa
5—**SOLOMON CROWE**
(4) 200, Bellefontaine, OH
6—**BULL DEMPSEY**
(6) 300, Brooklyn, NY
7—**APOLLO CREWS**
(-) 280, Atlanta, GA
8—**TYE DILLINGER**
(8) 235, Niagara Falls, ON
9—**RHYNO**
(5) 295, Detroit, MI
10—**MARCUS LOUIS**
(-) 245, Bordeaux, France

JAPAN

1—**KAZUCHIKA OKADA**
(-) 240, Tokyo, Japan
IWGP heavyweight champion
2—**MASATO YOSHINO**
(7) 165, Osaka Japan
3—**MINORU SUZUKI**
(3) 224, Yokohama, Japan
GHC heavyweight champion
4—**AKEBONO**
514, Waimanalo, HI
(4) AJPW Triple Crown champion
5—**HIROOKI GOTO**
(5) 227, Kuwana, Japan
6—**KUDO**
(8) 177, Tokyo, Japan
7—**KOHEI SATO**
(10) 220, Tokyo, Japan
8—**YUJI OKABAYASHI**
(-) 271, Nankoku, Japan
9—**KATSUYORI SHIBATA**
(-) 209, Kuwana, Japan
10—**TOMOHIRO ISHII**
(-) 220, Kawasaki, Japan

MEXICO

1—**MAXIMO**
(1) 203, Mexico City, Mexico
CMLL heavyweight champion
2—**ALBERTO EL PATRON**
(2) 239, San Luis Potosi, Mexico
AAA heavyweight champion
3—**BRIAN CAGE**
(3) 295, E. Los Angeles, CA
4—**REY BUCANERO**
(4) 207, Mexico City, Mexico
5—**ANGEL DE ORO**
(5) 181, Gomez Palacio, Mex.
6—**HIJO DEL FANTASMA**
(6) 200, Mexico City, Mexico
7—**LA SOMBRA**
(7) 180, Gomez Palacio, Mex.
8—**DRAGON ROJO**
(8) 187, Gomez Palacio, Mex.
9—**VOLADOR JR.**
(9) 192, Monclova, Mexico
10—**DRAGON LEE II**
(10) 165, Jalisco, Mexico

WOMEN

1—**NIKKI BELLA**
(1) 131, Scottsdale, AZ
WWE Divas champion
2—**SASHA BANKS**
(5) 114, Boston, MA
3—**GAIL KIM**
(7) 120, Toronto, ON
TNA *Knockouts champion*
4—**PAIGE**
(4) 120, Norwich, England
5—**SANTANA GARRETT**
(6) 120, Ocala, FL
6—**NAOMI**
(3) 125, Orlando, FL
7—**CHERRY BOMB**
(8) 125, Toronto, ON
8—**CHARLOTTE**
(-) 135, Charlotte, NC
9—**BRIE BELLA**
(-) 127, Scottsdale, AZ
10—**BROOKE TESSMACHER**
(-) 115, Houston, TX

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WEAR-DOWN HOLDS

1. Airplane spin
2. Arm drag
3. Arm lock
4. Asian spike
5. Atomic drop
6. Bear hug
7. Bite
8. Body slam
9. Body tackle
10. Bulldog
11. Chicken wing
12. Choke slam
13. Claw
14. Clothesline
15. Cross body block
16. Double axehandle
17. Drop kick
18. Eagle split
19. Elbow smash
20. Eye gouge
21. Face rake
22. Fireman's carry ram
23. Flying body press
24. Flying clothesline
25. Flying drop kick
26. Flying elbow drop
27. Flying head butt
28. Flying mare
29. Forearm smash
30. Foreign object
31. Full nelson
32. Giant swing
33. Grapevine
34. Hair pull
35. Hammer lock
36. Head lock
37. Head stomp
38. Hip roll
39. Irish whip
40. Knee drop
41. Leg lock
42. Leg sweep
43. Manager interference
44. Monkey flip
45. Overhead toss
46. Pole ram
47. Reverse chin lock
48. Rolling scissors
49. Rope burn
50. Russian sickle
51. Savate kick
52. Scissors grip
53. Shoulder breaker
54. Slingshot
55. Snap mare
56. Step-over toe hold
57. Suplex
58. Surfboard
59. Turnbuckle smash
60. Wrist lock

SET-UP HOLDS

61. Abdominal stretch
62. Avalanche
63. Backbreaker
64. Backroll press
65. Belly to belly
66. Big splash
67. Boston crab
68. Brain buster
69. Camel clutch
70. Cobra clutch
71. Cradle
72. Crucifix
73. DDT
74. Figure four
75. Flying leg drop
76. Gourd buster
77. Hurricanrana
78. Moonsault
79. Neckbreaker
80. Piledriver
81. Power bomb
82. Power slam
83. Scorpion deathlock
84. Sleeper
85. Slingshot suplex
86. Spine buster
87. Stunner
88. Sunset flip
89. Superplex
90. Texas cloverleaf

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WRESTLER'S NAME (DO NOT USE ANY REAL PRO WRESTLER NAMES)

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1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____

6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 10 _____

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